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UTTARAKHAND UCC

Governor returns Bills citing technical flaws

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Story of 'We, the moving people'

Moving people is now challenging idea of birthright citizenship

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FIGHTING BACK

Carey and Khawaja prop up Australia

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NEARBY

R-Day flower show to celebrate writer Tejaswi

BENGALURU
Lalbagh Botanical Garden will host its annual Republic Day flower show from January 15 to 26, with this edition paying tribute to the life and literary legacy of Kannada writer and thinker K.P. Poornachandra Tejaswi. » PAGE 2

RTC unions to begin awareness drive on 'strike'

BENGALURU
The JAC of transport corporation employees is likely to start an awareness campaign across RTC depots, signalling the possibility of a strike that could be launched without prior notice. » PAGE 7

LS passes nuclear energy Bill allowing privatisation

Congress protests SHANTI Bill which removes clause holding equipment supplier responsible for failure, questions its timing and interest shown by a 'conglomerate house'; Centre defends the Bill

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, 2025, despite demands by several Opposition parliamentarians for referring the legislation to a parliamentary panel.

The Bill, which aims at incentivising private sector participation, both Indian and foreign, into nuclear power production, now moves to the Rajya Sabha for discussion.

Congress MP Manish Tewari, who opened discussions on the Bill following introductory remarks by Science Minister Jitendra Singh, sought to know if it was a "coincidence" that a legislation enabling private sector participation in the nuclear sector coincided with interest expressed by the "conglomerate house... Adani" in November to enter the nuclear sector.

Mr. Singh, amidst uproar in the House following this, retorted that the Bill had nothing to do with any specific company and such an aspersion "brought disrepute to the House."

Mr. Tewari also burrowed into what is perhaps the most significant element of the Bill: the removal of a clause in the existing Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, that allows the operator of a nuclear power plant to claim recourse from suppliers if their equipment was found being responsible in case of an accident.

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DEBATE ON VB-G RAM G BILL
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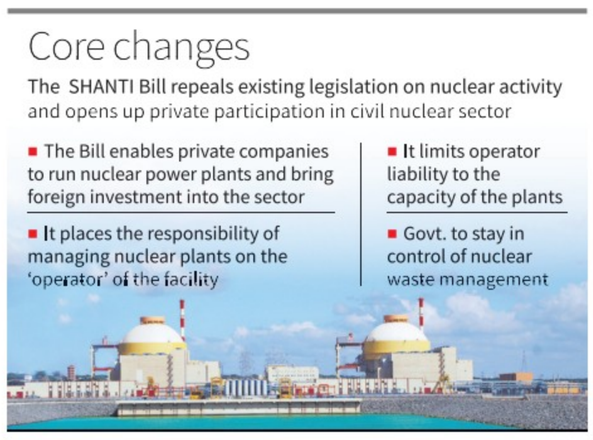
Core changes
The SHANTI Bill repeals existing legislation on nuclear activity and opens up private participation in civil nuclear sector
The Bill enables private companies to run nuclear power plants and bring foreign investment into the sector
It places the responsibility of managing nuclear plants on the 'operator' of the facility
It limits operator liability to the capacity of the plants
Govt. to stay in control of nuclear waste management

RS passes Bill for 100% FDI in insurance sector

NEW DELHI
The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday passed the Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill, which allows 100% Foreign Direct Investment in the insurance sector, amid demands for it to be sent to a select committee. » PAGE 13

India calls for safety as protesters march to mission in Dhaka

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Hours after a radical group in Dhaka announced a march to the Indian High Commission on Wednesday afternoon, to protest India's alleged interference in Bangladeshi politics, the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi summoned the High Commissioner of Bangladesh Riaz Hamidullah and reminded him about his government's responsibility to ensure the security and safety of India's mission and visa facilities in Bangladesh.

"India completely rejects the false narrative sought to be created by extremist elements regarding certain recent events in Bangladesh," the MEA said in a statement after the meeting with Mr. Hamidullah.

The July Oikyo Mancho, which called for the march, sought the return of "Fascist Hasina, and other murderers", in a reference to ousted Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who now lives in India. It also called for an end to the "unchecked conspiracy by India's proxy political party, media, and officials".

Protesters march to the Indian mission in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on Wednesday. REUTERS

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Letter exposes 'in-house justice' at apartment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru police have booked the Resident Welfare Association (RWA) of Provident Sunworth Apartments, located in the southwestern part of the city, along with a private security agency, for allegedly suppressing information about criminal activities within the residential complex and dealing with offences outside the purview of the law.

According to the police, the RWA allegedly created its own bylaws, imposed fines, and roped in a private security firm, Tyco Security Agency, to conduct inquiries. In doing so, the RWA is accused of illegally collecting fines and unlawfully allowing accused persons in multiple cases to go free.

CONTINUED ON
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A BG-BGE

If you have happy people who are skilled too, they perform better

PBKS co-owner Wadia says the franchise wants to provide a personal touch and a professional environment for the players; feels that, like in any business, the assets should be protected and maintained to the best possible level

INTERVIEW

Ness Wadia

Amol Karhadkar
ABU DHABI

Heading into the Indian Premier League auction, it was the team with the least number of slots available. However, the toll of the exhausting auction was visible on the face of Punjab Kings co-owner Ness Wadia when he sat down for a chat minutes after the proceedings concluded at the Etihad Arena on Tuesday. Delighted at the windfall for the domestic uncapped players, Wadia explained the rationale behind captain Shreyas Iyer's presence at the auction table and stressed the need for domestic talent to be harnessed and encouraged. Excerpts:

How weird was this experience of being a silent spectator rather than being in the thick of things in an IPL auction?

It was beautiful. It was actually nice. It was relaxing. I must say I was more nervous last night because we needed four players and we had a very small budget and didn't sleep too well, but it is a good feeling. Having two players retained last year, 21 this year, not even really needing four more players, but then getting good ones – young ones and some experience as well, with Ben Dwarshuis as the pacer. Cooper Connolly is a phenomenal player and the captain and coach are very happy. Shreyas Iyer came with us, so it has just been fantastic the last one year and I am sure it is going to be many, many more years to come.

A captain on an auction table is something that rarely happens nowadays. Was it a conscious decision?

Hundred per cent. It had nothing to do with his injury. A lot of people have said to me, he is injured, therefore he came – nothing at all. We were chatting and I said, "Would you like to come?" And he said, "Sure." And that was it. And he enjoyed himself. And I am sure he will be coming back for more because eventually he is the captain and the coach who decide who plays. It is difficult when you don't have the captain or coach. Luckily for us, because Ricky also couldn't come, Shreyas came. Hopefully, in the big auction, we will have both of them two years from now.

After last year's auction, you had promised the fans that you will ensure that their faith will be reposed. How pleasing is it that it has all come good in the first year of the rejig itself?

I mean, it is just – it is a dream come true. If I was to write down before the auction last year that we wanted the players we got, from Shreyas, Yuzi [Chahal] to Arshdeep, to so many young guys – (Priyansh) Arya, (Suryansh) Shedge, Shashank (Singh), of course we retained – Lockie [Ferguson] and Marco [Jansen] who did really well for us – it was just a dream. And again, it was all because of the people coming together. One happy family. Ricky (Ponting) is very happy being with us. Shreyas is very happy being with us. We are very happy having them.

So I know it sounds boring and kind of cliche and you know you have heard it before – that it is family and this and that – but it truly is, and that is what it is. We really care for our players. During the brief war with Pakistan, when we had to leave Dharamshala, we had to plan whether to go to Pathankot or Ludhiana. Everyone thought we were going to Pathankot, but we went to Ludhiana. The players went through hell and I spoke to every one of them on the way because they needed someone who was going to care, especially the foreign boys.

And then, during Deepavali this year, small things like writing to everyone – including cricket ops, everyone in the whole company who is Indian – was written to personally by us and thanked, a personal letter, not just "Hi, thanks very much." It was small moments which created it. So that's the culture we want to really build. That's the culture we want to push on the field and off the field. And eventually they come together and everyone is happy. And if you have happy people who are skilled too, they perform better.

Can you spell out the rationale behind letting go of Josh Inglis? It must have been a difficult decision.

We didn't really let go of Josh. I mean, Josh unfortunately, sadly, only told us at the last minute, which was not very fair given that he had been with us for a while. I think everyone knew when the retention was coming, and we were informed by him 45 minutes before the deadline that he was getting married and needed time to relax and recuperate. He said he was going to be available only for a couple of weeks (three games).

We told him he should have informed us earlier. I don't think it was very professional of him. I don't think it is very professional of anyone if they know there is a deadline. You can't call someone 45 minutes before and say, "Hey, I'm not coming," especially when he knew that we were retaining him.

But I wish him all the best. He is a good player and I am sure he will do well for Australia. And let's see whether he plays in the IPL or not. I wish him all the best because he is a fellow human being. But, the manner in which he behaved was not very professional.

Stephen Fleming said that 'IPL babies' are coming to the fore. There is a big jump for the domestic uncapped players... how do you see this?

I think it is amazing. We are so happy. In fact, Shreyas and I were discussing today, and he was like, "I am so happy that all the Indian players are getting their due," and that is what they should be, right? Because it is the IPL. If you have 25 players, seven can be Indians in the playing XI. You can play all Indians, but you cannot play more than four overseas even with the Impact Player rule. This is the IPL and we are just lucky to have international support from across the world to make it an even bigger event. It would not be the same without them. But for the Indian boys, I am so happy because they really work hard. Some of them come from really poor backgrounds and struggle to play. They can barely afford to get a bat and sometimes play with a stick.

So it is just an amazing story to have. I remember when we got (T.) Natarajan as a player – it's heart-warming. And I think that is what the IPL is about: giving opportunity. Arya, who is our opener, once asked me – we were sitting down after the first game in Ahmedabad, everyone celebrating, a lot of people drinking – and after 45 minutes he said, "Sir, can I ask you a question? Why did you invest in the IPL?" After hearing the whole story, I said, "Because I want people like you to get an opportunity." And he has taken it with both hands. What more joy can one have than to see other people succeed.

That's really why I invested in the IPL, and that's why it makes me so happy today to see even the high prices people went for. There is a lot of worth in Indian cricket.

How critical is it for franchise owners and the BCCI to create a structure where talent is groomed properly?

It is a very good question, because the IPL cannot just be a window where you come, play and leave. It has to be year-round. We monitor players through the year – fitness, nutrition, mental health. In any business, and this is a business, you have to protect and ensure that your assets are maintained to the best possible level.

The BCCI has done a great job ensuring players play domestic cricket. There is a huge amount of talent in India. I truly believe India can field three or four teams and beat some of the best, if they are just allowed to play.

You made the final last year. How confident are you of going one step further this time?

The first step is always to finish in the top four, preferably the top two. Then you need to play your best game. Last year, we were perhaps overconfident against Bangalore and lost the qualifier. Maybe we were also a little nervous in the final.

We had one of the youngest teams. Now it is about keeping those 21 players, adding three or four more, and moving forward. We have an Indian coach now, Sairaj Bahutule, Indian statisticians – it's a great team effort. It's about recovery, mental and physical fitness, nutrition. If players are fit and mentally strong, performance follows. Those small things make a big difference to careers.

Members of tribal communities in Nagarahole to commence 15-day padayatra from December 21

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Members of various tribal communities from 34 villages in the Nagarahole forest area have planned to undertake a 15-day padayatra to raise awareness on the Forest Rights Act.

The padayatra will start from Thithimathi in Kodagu district on December 21 and will end near H.D. Kote in Mysuru on January 4, 2026. Around 500 people are expected to join the march on the first day and the numbers are expected to increase, said Ramakrishna J.S., Jenu Kuruba community member from the region.

According to leaders of the tribal communities, one of the primary aims of the initiative is to engage the youth in each village in the region and remind them of the Adivasi worldview. Skits, traditional songs and songs of resistance on the threats faced by communities in the region will be part of the programme.

"The implementation of Individual Forest Rights and Community Forest Rights has not been effective in the Nagarahole region. While some communities have got rights on paper, the implementation has been shoddy," alleged J.A. Shivu, leader of the Nagarahole Adivasi Jammapale Hakku Sthapana Samiti. "Members of our communities face harassment by officials constantly. This is Adivasi land. Why must we beg for the rights to live on our own lands? Rights are being taken from us and given to plantations and resorts, who make profits out of cultures that are not theirs," he added.

The community leaders also noted that they intend to have discussions with officials.

Republic Day flower show to celebrate life of Poornachandra Tejaswi

Theme has been chosen with the objective of familiarising younger audiences and visitors from outside the State with Tejaswi's work

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

Lalbagh Botanical Garden will host its annual Republic Day flower show from January 15 to 26, with this edition paying tribute to the life and literary legacy of celebrated Kannada writer and thinker K.P. Poornachandra Tejaswi.

The theme has been chosen with the objective of familiarising younger audiences and visitors from outside the State with Tejaswi's work and commemorating more than 45 years since the publication of his iconic novel *Carvalho*, Horticulture Department officials said.

"To ensure that the theme is reflected meaningfully in the floral installations, the department is reaching out to literary scholars, writers and others closely familiar with Tejaswi's life and work. Their inputs will help in conceptualising displays that go beyond decorative value and narrate aspects of the author's ideas, characters and worldview, making the experience more informative for students and first-time readers," M. Jagadeesh, Joint Director of Horticulture (Parks & Gardens) at Lalbagh Botanical Garden, told *The Hindu*.

K.P. Poornachandra Tejaswi

Officials highlighted that Tejaswi's writing continues to resonate across generations because of its creative writing style, scientific temper, and deep engagement with nature and society. His books are still widely read, not just in Karnataka but also by readers from outside the State. *Carvalho*, in particular, has attracted attention as a Kannada science fiction novel that blends scientific inquiry with the ecology of the Western Ghats. The novel traces a scientist's search for a flying lizard, a narrative that has remained relevant for its imaginative approach and remains one of Tejaswi's most discussed works.

Mr. Jagadeesh added that the department is currently finalising the budget and working on new design concepts to avoid repetition and to draw greater interest, particularly from younger visitors. "Along with the traditional display of seasonal flowers, efforts are being made to source new and rare varieties from different parts of the country and select international locations. These will be showcased through innovative layouts and thematic structures so that visitors have a fresh visual experience rather than a mere change in theme," he said.

> To ensure that the theme is reflected meaningfully in the floral installations, the department is reaching out to literary scholars, writers and others closely familiar with Tejaswi's life and work
>
> **M. JAGADEESH,**
> Joint Director of Horticulture (Parks & Gardens) at Lalbagh Botanical Garden

This year's flower show will also be the first to be held after the introduction of electric bicycles and tricycles within Lalbagh. Officials said that this is expected to enhance visitor experience.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, DEC. 18	
RISE	06:35 SET 17:57
RISE	05:00 SET 16:29
FRIDAY, DEC. 19	
RISE	06:36 SET 17:58
RISE	05:52 SET 17:19
SATURDAY, DEC. 20	
RISE	06:36 SET 17:58
RISE	06:45 SET 18:11

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	20
Mysuru	28	19
Bengaluru	24	16

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be dry. Day will be comfortable. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be cool. Dry weather to occur.

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE

IN FOND of late Mr.T.Kumaravel (Assistant Accountant) by Marimuthu Kumaravel & family (DAY CLOCK)...

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, B S BHASKER RAO, S/o. V Subbaiah Naidu, R/at 952, HRBR Layout, 1st Block, Bangalore – 43 have changed my name from B S BHASKARA RAO, B S BHASKAR RAO to B S BHASKER RAO for all my future purposes through affidavit 17–12–2025 sworn before the notary B. Seshagiri.

I, KRISHNAPPA GC S/O CHINNAYA NAYAK R/O–15 2nd Cross Kuvempu Layout Parappana Agrahara Electronic City Bengaluru–560100 changed my minor Daughter's name from DRUTHI K NAIK to DRUTHI K NAYAK aged 17 Years.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Ram Avtar Singh S/O Momraj Singh Residing at A -103, B M Rosewood, Apartment, Borewell Road, Nallurahalli, Whitefield Bengaluru, have Changed My Name to Ram Autar Singh Vide Affidavit Dated 16-Dec-25 Sworn Before Notary Veena J, Karnataka.

I, ARMY No.15322892F, Rank: Hawaldar, Name: Chandra Kumar.V, resident of No.22, Vandikar Line, Marikuppam Post, K G F-563113, have changed my wife's name from R.Prili Lakshmi to Prili Lakshmi.R as per my Court affidavit dated 16/12/2025 duly signed by S.Thangaraj, Public Notary, K G F

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PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that our client **Mr. Ganesh Shanbhogue, Mobile No. 9632050009,** aged about 70 years, residing at Flat No 62, Ground Floor, No 404. J.C. Residency, Jayalakshmamrna Layout, 6th Block, Nagarabhavi 2. Stage, Bengaluru -560072, has filed a suit in O.S. No 198/2019 for Specific Performance in the court of Hon'ble Principal Senior Civil Judge at Magadl against the Property bearing Old Sy No 152 & present Sy No. 152/1, situated at Tavarekere Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, measuring 4 acres of residentially converted vacant land which is morefully described in the schedule hereunder. The unpoded pahani & revenue records are in the name of **Mr. D. Shankar** who is the defendant in the above suit. The suit schedule property is presently under interim order granted by this Hon'ble court dated 30.11-2021 and read as " Defendant, his agents, servants or anybody claiming through them are hereby temporarily restrained from alienating the suit schedule property till the disposal of the suit". Now our client came to know from reliable sources that Mr. D. Shankar is making hectic efforts to sell the Suit Schedule Property without disclosing the litigation and as such our client warns general public not to indulge in dealing or purchasing or entering into any transactions inrespect of suit schedule property. Any person(s) / party(ies) dealing directly or indirectly with regard to suit schedule property mentioned below or in any other manner shall be doing so at his / her / their own cost, risk and consequences and our client shall not be responsible for any such acts.

SUIT SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable property being a vacant residentially converted land bearing Old Sy No 152, present Sy No. 152/1 measuring 4-00 Acres, situated at Tavarekere Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk and bounded by:

East by : Remaining land in Sy No 152/1.
West by : Remaining land In Sy No. 152/1,
North by : Land bearing Sy No. 152/6,
South by : Land bearing Sy No. 152/5.

Date: 16.12.2025.
Place: Bangalore.

Sd/-
D Raghu Prakash Babu, Advocate
DLAW ASSOCIATES, U-203, No.87, "SHRESHTA BUMI",
2nd Floor, Opp. KIMS, KR Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560011.
Mobile No.: 98457 12345, 99001 76271

BANGALORE WEST CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Lakes, Zone-1, BWCC, No.118, 1st Floor, IPP Centre, 16th Cross Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003

No: EE/Lakes/BWCC/PR/02/2025-26 **Dated:17-12-2025**

INVITATION TO TENDER (ITT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only) (Single Cover System)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the works mentioned below from the registered contractors of registration with CPWD/KPWD/ Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations.
The Tender Document shall be downloaded from the GoK Karnataka Procurement Portal Website **(https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** on payment of prescribed fee noted against each item of work (non-refundable) in the form of e-Payment through Karnataka Procurement Portal. The Tenderer should accompany a copy of the valid Registration Certificate and shall be submitted through Karnataka Procurement Portal. (Standard Tender Bid Document)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work/Approx Value of Work (in Lakhs)/EMD in Rupees.
1	Package 2: 1) Annual Maintenance of Doddabidarakallu Lake & 2) Annual Maintenance of Shivapura lake (Call-2). Value of Work : Rs.**42.00 Lakhs,** EMD **Rs.42,000/-**, Eligibility of Contractor and Category : **Class-III & Above (CAT-IIA).**

Calendar of events: (1) Available of Tender Documents :**18/12/2025 after 10.00 hours. (2)** Last Date for receipt of Tenders :**26/12/2025 upto 16:00 hours. (3)** Opening of Tender bid :**29/12/2025 at 16:30 hours**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Lakes-Zone-1)
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BENGALURU

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UNDER RULES 8(6) & (9) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

Notice is hereby given to the effect that the immovable properties described herein, taken possession under the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, will be sold by inviting tenders on the following terms & conditions. E auction arranged by the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance (BAANKNET)** . through the website **https://BAANKNET.COM//**

Sl. No.	1)Name of the Borrower / Guarantor(s) 2)Name of the Branch and Secured Creditor	1) Secured Debt outstanding 2) Reserve Price 3) Earnest Money Deposit	1) Last date of deposit of EMD 2) Last date of KYC documents 3) EMD Details 4) Bid Factor	1. Date of Auction 2. Time of Auction 3. Date & Time of Inspection
1	**1) BORROWER (S) :** **1.Mr Rudraswamy E S/o Mr.Erappa** No.24/25,2ndFloor ,Kanakadasa layout ,Lingarajapuram Bangalore-560089. **Also Residing at : Mr Rudraswamy E S/o Erappa** Flat No.B12/306,3rd Floor ,12thBlock,Alur layout Bangalore -560018. **2) Canara Bank - Cunningham Road Branch** **Mob. No. 8762720431, 9119850456, 9668191165**	**1) Rs . 5,14,626.70** plus further interest & charges **2) Mentioned each property below.**	1) 05.01.2026 up to 5.00 PM 2) 05.01.2026 up to 6.00 PM 3)EMD payment to E-Wallet or Through Challan generated in M/S PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) Portal. 4) Rs. 50,000/-	1. 06.01.2026 2. 11.00 AM to 12.00 PM 3. 03.01.2026 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM
	Description of the immovable/ movable assets: All that piece and parcel of property bearing No.128, in Block No.9,10,11 and 12, Sy No.113, situated at Alur Village formed by Bangalore Development Authority, measuring East to West 44 Meters and North to South 60 Meters, totally measuring 2,640 Square Meters and Property is bounded on the: **East by :** Road , **West by:** Road , **North by:** Road And **South by:** BDA Vacant Land. **SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY :** 33.526 Square Meters of undivided share, right, title and interest in the Schedule "A" Property. **SCHEDULE "C" PROPERTY :** All that piece and parcel of the 1 BHK Residential Apartment bearing Flat No.B12-306,on the 3rd Floor, in the 12th Block, having Super Built Up Area measuring 33.526Square Meters, constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property, and bounded : On the **East by:** ALR-H. No. B12/307 **On the West by:** Open Space , **On the North by:** Open Space And **On the South by:** ALR-H. No. B12/305. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs 11,83,000/- B) EMD - Rs.1,18,300/-**			
2	**1) BORROWER (S) : M/s. URS SAFERYDE LLP** No 22 Srikantan Layout ,Crescent Road Cross ,Kumara Park East, High Grounds ,Bangalore 560001. **2) Mr. RAKESH RAJE URS K (Partner and Guarantor of M/S. URS SAFERYDE LLP) S/O. G KRISHNE URS,** No. 22 crescent Road Cross , Kumara Park East, High Grounds Bengaluru 560001. **3) Mr. RISHI R URS (Partner and Guarantor of M/S. URS SAFERYDE LLP) S/O K RAKESH RAJE URS** No 22 2nd Floor, Cresent Road Cross ,Kumara Park East, High Grounds Bangalore 560001. **4) MRS. MAYA B SRIDHAR (Guarantor of M/S. URS SAFERYDE LLP)** No 22 Crescent Rd Cross , Kumara Park East High Grounds Bengaluru 560001. **2) Canara Bank - Madhavanagar Branch** **Mob 9500457809 , 9886450915**	**1) Rs.5,56,35,703.58** plus further interest & charges **2) Mentioned each property below.**	1) 20.01.2026 up to 5.00 PM 2) 20.01.2026 up to 6.00 PM 3)EMD payment to E-Wallet or Through Challan generated in M/S PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) Portal. 4) Rs. 5,00,000/-	1. 21.01.2026 2. 11.00 AM to 12.00 PM 3. 19.01.2026 10.00 am to 4.00 pm
	Description of the immovable/ movable assets: Schedule A1 : (Description of entire property on which dwelling units comprising of ground, first and second floor are constructed). All that piece and parcel of residential property earlier bearing site No.17 formed in premises number 8 of erstwhile Crescent Road,High grounds, Bangalore subsequently bearing Municipal No.22,PID No.77-101-22 New No.33,1st Main, Srikanthan Layout, Bangalore measuring east to west 40 feet, north to south on the eastern side 70 feet, on the western side 86 ½ feet in all measuring about 3130 square feet along with three car parking slots in the ground floor together with building comprising of ground, first and second floor each measuring about 1150sft and entire property bounded on the**East by :** Site No.18 (Old Number) ,**West by :** Site No.16 (Old Number) ,**North by :** Storm water drain And **South by :** Road. **SCHEDULE-B1 PROPERTY :** (Description of property being mortgage owned by Smt Maya B Sridhar) All that piece and parcel of residential unit on the SECOND FLOOR constructed on Schedule A1 Property bearing bifurcated Municipal No.22/2,PID No.77-101-22/2 with a super built up area of 1150 square feet (SBA) along with one car garage on the western side in the ground floor measuring about 150 Sft. Along with 1/3rd undivided ownership share, right title and interest in the site of schedule 'A' property amounting to 782.5 sft(UDS) with right to use the common amenities and proportionate share in common areas like ingress, egress areas and other such common areas of schedule A property. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs 2,66,50,000/- B) EMD - Rs.26,65,000/-** **SCHEDULE-A2 PROPERTY :** All the piece and parcel of the Schedule House Property bearing No.646, situated at Dattagally, 'I' Block, Ramakrishnanagar, 3rd Main, 3rd Block Chamaraja Mohalla Mysore with under mention linear measurement and boundary, measuring East to West 12 Mtrs. And North to South 18 Mtrs. totally measuring to an extent of 216 Square Mtrs. and bounded on :**East by :**Property bearing No.647 , **West by** Property bearing No.645 ,**North by :** Property bearing No.642 **South by:** Road. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs 2,31,66,000/- B) EMD - Rs.23,16,600/-**			
3	**1) BORROWER (S) : 1)SHRI SANKAR G S/O C GANESAN** No. 201 Rr Enclave , Kachnanayakanahalli Police Layout , Jigani Hennagara Post ,Bengaluru Rural **Also Residing At : SHRI SANKAR G** No. 22, G Floor, Ramaiah Street ,Near Om Shakthi Temple , Vannarpet, Viveknagar Post Bengaluru- 560047. **2) Canara Bank - Gandhi Nagar Branch** **Mob. No. 7080216393 , 9366824676**	**1) Rs.32,67,111.76** plus further interest & charges **2) Mentioned each property below.**	1) 05.01.2026 up to 5.00 PM 2) 05.01.2026 up to 6.00 PM 3)EMD payment to E-Wallet or Through Challan generated in M/S PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) Portal. 4) Rs.1,00,000/-	1. 06.01.2026 2. 11.00 AM to 12.00 PM 3. 03.01.2026 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM
	Description of the immovable/ movable assets: SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Residential Property bearing no 4, Khata No 526/117-118-199-25/2B/4, then Khata No 526/117, 118, 119/4 of the Bangalore City Police Housing Co-Operative Society Ltd, formed out of Sy Nos 117, 118, 119 of Kachanayakanhalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 60 Feet and North to South : 40 Feet totally measuring 2400 Sq ft and bounded on : **East By :** Site no 277 , **West By :** Road , **North By :**Site no, 3 And **South By :** Part of Site no.4/A, Old No 4 . **SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY :** 320 Square feet of Undivided Share, right , title and interest in the land comprising in Schedule "A" Property mentioned above together with Three Bed Rooms, Apartment Bearing No 201 in the Second Floor measuring 1310 Square feet of Super built up Area with Vitrified tiles flooring, with One Car Parking Slot be the part of Multi storied residential complex known as " R.R ENCLAVE" constructed at Schedule 'A' property along with one half part in depth of the joints between the ceiling of the apartments and the floor of the space above it and internal and external walls such level as with concealed wiring with proportionate share in common access and areas of the building like entrance foyer, common corridors in all floors, stair cases including landing up to the terrace, machine room, housing and lift machineries of passenger elevator along with necessary cabin, winches and motor etc, pump sets, houses in pump room along with necessary valves, starters etc, and common areas electrical system. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs 40,00,000/- B) EMD - Rs.4,00,000/-**			

For all details contact at Regional Office, MG Road, Bangalore. Contact Numbers - 1) 79074 16232, 2) 70107 03787

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please logon to our website **www.canarabank.com** under "E-Auction" or contact the branch.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 17.12.2025

Authorized Officer,
Canara Bank

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No: SWRW-RSP-LC-01-ROB-03
Dated: 11.12.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Proposed Construction of 2 lane ROB at Km: 01/100-200 in lieu of LC No. 01 between Chikajajur-Amritapura stations of Chikjajur - Rayadurg (JRU-RDG) section - Mysuru Division (Composite work).	Rs. 25,15,39,870.54/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 05.01.2026**
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Chief Administrative Officer (Construction)/Road Safety Projects/Hubballi
PUB/737/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: SWR-RSP-LC-22-ROB-04
Dated: 12.12.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Proposed Construction of 2 lane ROB at Km: 33/700-800 in lieu of LC No. 22 between Chitradurga - Balenahalli stations of Chikjajur Jn - Rayadurg (JRU-RDG) section - Mysuru Division **(Composite work).**	**Rs. 32,51,54,157.10**

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 12.01.2026**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Chief Administrative Officer (Construction) / Road Safety Projects / South Western Railway / Hubballi
PUB/742/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of Corrigendum to Tender Notice No.: CAO/CN/BNC/156/2025
Dated 04.11.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Conducting final location survey for New line between Shivamogga - Sringeri - Mangaluru (332 km), Talguppa - Honnavara (95 km), Alamatti - Yadgiri (162 km) and Bhadravathi - Chikjajur (73 km). **(Tender Ref.No. SWR-FLS-RATECONTRACT-03)**	Rs. 33,52,62,609/-

Date of Closing	
Existing	**Revised**
15.12.2025 (15:00 Hrs.)	**24.12.2025 (15:00 Hrs.)**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantt.
PUB/738/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Sri.MANOHAR.G,** S/o. Gurumurthy Reddy, aged about 46 years, R/at.No.161, 8th Street, Bank Avenue, Kalyana nagar, Bangalore-560043 are intended to purchase the **Residential Property Bearing Site No.1, portion of property No.16/2, BBMP Khatha No.16/2/1, measuring East to West: (22+18)/2 feet and North to South:87 feet, totally measuring 1740 Sq feet, situated at Babusa Palya village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, bounded on East By: property belongs to Sri.R.Venkatesh, West by: Property belongs to Sri.Ramanjanappa, North by: 30 feet width Road and South by: property belongs to Sri.Ramanjanapa** from **Sri.B.C.Venkatesh,** S/o.B.N.Chikka Shivalappa, aged about 47 years, R/at. No.82, 1st Cross, Doddaiah Layout, Babusa palya, Kalyan Nagar Post, Bangalore-560043, if anybody have any claims, title, rights over this property, they shall file their objections with documents, before the undersigned within **10 days** from this notice. Failing which my client will proceeds further.

M.MOHAN KUMAR & ASSOCIATES
Advocates
No.4/2, 2nd Floor, Shamsuddin Block, HHS & HMS Complex, Cubbonpet Main Road, Bangalore-560002.
M : 9880345694, 8618771213

IN THE COURT OF THE 57th ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYO HALL, AT BANGALORE (CCH-58)
Hearing Date - 05/01/2026
P & SC No. 25059/2025
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LATE MRS. ZULAIKA JAFFER

Petitioners : **1. MRS. LUBNA NAVED HASSAN** W/o Mr. Naved M. Hassan D/o Late M.S. Haji Jaffer, Aged about 71 years, R/at No.99, Sarjapur Main Road, Next to Wipro Corp Office, Sunny Brooks Layout, Carmelaram, Doddakannalli, Bangalore - 560035.
2. MRS. RAANA HUSAINI, W/o Dr. Syed Nayeem Husaini, D/o Late M.S. Haji Jaffer, Aged about 68 years, R/at 53, Long Meadow Drive Pittsburgh, PA15238, U S A.
Represented by Power of Attorney Holder Mrs. Lubna Naved Hassan (i.e., Petitioner No.1)
3. MR. SHABBER JAFFER S/o Late M.S. Haji Jaffer, Aged about 66 years, 1465, Ravenswood Drive, Los Altos, C A 94024, U.S.A
Represented by Power of Attorney Holder Mrs. Lubna Naved Hassan (i.e., Petitioner No.1)
-V/s-
Respondent : **Nil**

PUBLIC NOTICE
UNDER ORDER 5 RULE 20 OF CPC

Notice is hereby given that; a Petition has made to this Court under Section 370 & 372 OF THE INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT for grant of Succession Certificate in favour of Petitioner No.3. Be it known to all that no caveat has been entered and the said petition is posted for hearing on **05th January 2026 at 11.00 A.M**, before the Hon'ble Court of LVII Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, Mayo Hall, Bengaluru **(CCH-58)**. Any person/s claiming to have any interest may participate in the proceedings before the grant of Succession Certificate.

SCHEDULE
INCOME TAX REFUND OF **Rs.14,53,620/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Fifty-Three Thousand Six Hundred and Twenty Only)** for the Assessment Year 2006-07.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 02nd Day of December, 2025.

By Order of the Court, DEPUTY REGISTRAR, City Civil Court, Mayo Hall Unit, Bengaluru.
Advocate for Petitioners
Hitesh Kumar Jain, Advocate
HM LEGAL
No.24/10, 1st Floor, Haudin Road, Ulsoor, Bengaluru-560042.
M : 9844372444 E : hitu.80@gmail.com

Possible discovery of dark matter sparks debate, experts urge caution

Physicists don't know what makes up dark matter; one hypothesis is that it is a new type of subatomic particle called WIMPs, which barely interact with normal matter and never with light; the trick to finding them then is high-energy particles released when two WIMPs annihilate each other

Prakash Chandra

Scientists believe the Milky Way galaxy's disc lies within a much larger, roughly spherical dark matter halo. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Is it a false alarm or a discovery that solves one of the greatest mysteries in cosmology? This is the question weighing on astronomers as they examine a study published recently in the *Journal of Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics*, which claims to have finally detected the elusive "dark matter".

Dark matter is believed to have been around for most of the 14-billion-year history of the universe. Astronomers began searching for it in the early 1930s after the Swiss astronomer Fritz Zwicky observed that galaxies in the Coma Cluster were moving too quickly for the amount of ordinary matter it contained. He realised the speed of their rotation was so great that they should have flown apart as they didn't have enough matter to generate the gravity needed to hold them together. He deduced that some hidden mass could be providing the "extra gravity" required for the galaxies to stay intact. He named this dark matter.

Invisible WIMPs

According to the Standard Model of particle physics, ordinary (baryonic) matter that makes up the world around us consists of elementary particles such as baryons (protons and neutrons) and electrons, along with massless photons of electromagnetic radiation such as light. Baryons themselves are made up of even smaller particles called quarks and gluons. But all these fundamental particles form just 5% of all mass in the known universe. Dark matter accounts for 27%, while a mysterious force called "dark energy" makes up the rest.

Physicists don't know what dark matter is made up of, but one hypothesis they have is a hitherto unknown type of subatomic particle called WIMPs. The name is short for 'weakly interacting massive particles'. According to physicists, WIMPs barely interact with normal matter and not at all with any form of electromagnetic radiation. Since dark matter doesn't emit, absorb or reflect light, astronomers can only study its gravitational effect on visible matter, such as stars and galaxies.

The trick to finding it is then to spot its tell-tale signature: high-energy particles, such as gamma-ray photons that are released when two WIMPs collide and annihilate each other.

New claim

Tomonori Totani of the University of Tokyo has now claimed to have identified just such a gamma-ray signal in his study, using data from the Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope.

"We detected gamma rays with a photon energy of 20 giga-electron-volts (or 20 billion electron-volts, an extremely large amount of energy) extending in a halo-like structure towards the centre of the Milky Way galaxy", Prof. Totani said. "The gamma-ray emission component closely matches the shape expected from the dark matter halo."

He added that the measured gamma ray energy spectrum "closely matches model predictions for the annihilation of hypothetical WIMPs with masses roughly 500-times that of a proton."

Astronomers always knew dark matter must be virtually hiding in plain sight and that they'd find it sooner or later. Has Prof. Totani found it, however? Not quite, say experts, as the research data have to survive rigorous scrutiny and critical evaluation by more independent researchers.

'Excess' radiation

"When we see a signal that looks like it could be dark matter, we can check other regions that are rich in dark matter to look for a comparable signal there," Tracy Slatyer, professor of physics and Director, MIT Centre for Theoretical Physics, told this correspondent via email.

"Studying the detailed properties of the signal would tell if it's consistent with what we expect from dark matter or if it has traits more consistent with an alternative source. So far, we have had many signals that seemed at first glance likely to be dark matter, but subsequent in-depth analysis revealed they were from a different source. Moreover, the overall size of the signal is not what you would expect from classic WIMP models (it is too large), and when we do the test of looking at other dark-matter-rich regions, we do not see a corresponding signal."

According to Rishi Khatri of the Department of Theoretical Physics at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, the findings suggest the detection of an excess of radiation compared to what cosmologists expect from the model of the Milky Way galaxy.

"It is possible that this excess is just pointing to something missing in the model of our galaxy rather than dark matter." Prof. Khatri said in an email interview. "Based on what the study claims, we can predict what kind of signal we can expect from other nearby galaxies and then try to observe these signals. There have been similar claims many times in the past about the detection of dark matter, but they turned out to be false."

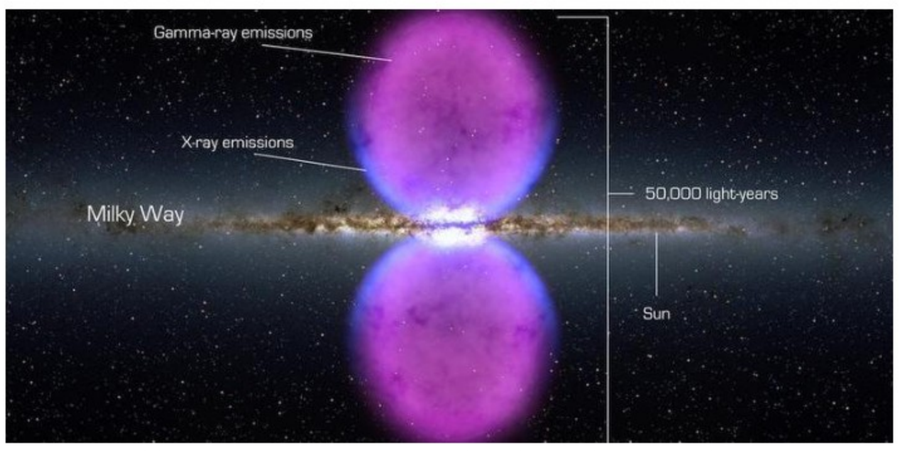
> The measured gamma ray energy spectrum closely matches model predictions for the annihilation of hypothetical WIMPs with masses roughly 500-times that of a proton
>
> **TOMONORI TOTANI**
> UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

Radiation from other sources

Discoveries in particle physics have to typically reach a confidence level called '5 sigma' before they are considered valid. Where does the new finding stand on this scale?

"The excess reported in the paper seems to be quite more than 5-sigma, without taking into account the uncertainty in modelling," Prof. Khatri said. "The author has not given a number with the modelling uncertainty included. This should give you an idea about how uncertain we are about the uncertainty (i.e. error on the error bars), which is very important in such studies." An immediate task for astronomers would be to rule out the possibility of the radiation coming from some other sources of high-energy radiation like supernovae, the explosive deaths of massive stars; neutron stars, the ultra-dense collapsed cores of massive stars after supernova explosions; or black holes.

The gravity of dark matter, like normal matter, should cause the light passing nearby to bend, in a phenomenon called gravitational lensing. A spectacular example of this is the Bullet Cluster, where the collision of two clusters of galaxies resulted in the separation of dark matter from normal matter, and astronomers could discern the halos of dark matter around the galaxies by how they bent the path of light.



An illustration of the two gigantic X-ray/gamma-ray bubbles (blue-violet) known to be associated with the Milky Way (centre). NASA

The LCDM model

If the findings stand up to scrutiny and it turns out that a dark matter particle has actually been found, the widely accepted Lambda-Cold Dark Matter model of the universe wouldn't have to be modified. This is because, as Prof. Khatri said, "A new particle that would form dark matter is actually included in the LCDM model."

Instead, "what we do not know is the exact nature of dark matter."

And "if the dark matter is a 500 GeV WIMP as is claimed, it would be expected to have only very tiny interactions with other dark matter particles or with ordinary matter," Prof. Slatyer said. "So it would be safe to treat it as having only gravitational interactions, and many of the predictions of LCDM could remain almost unchanged."

One thing that can be said with certainty is that this grand cosmic narrative is at an exciting stage as astronomers untangle the fabric of the universe to try to understand its evolution and nature.

(Prakash Chandra is a science writer. prakashisat@gmail.com)

Yoshinori Iizuka with an ice core sample at the Hokkaido University Institute of Low Temperature Science, Japan. AFP

Pamir ice cores could provide answers to the loss of glaciers

Agence France Presse

Dressed in an orange puffer jacket, Japanese scientist Yoshinori Iizuka stepped into a storage freezer to retrieve an ice core he hopes will help experts protect the world's disappearing glaciers.

The fist-sized sample drilled from a mountaintop is part of an international effort to understand why glaciers in Tajikistan have resisted the rapid melting seen almost everywhere else.

"If we could learn the mechanism behind the increased volume of ice there, then we may be able to apply that to all the other glaciers around the world," potentially even helping revive them, said Iizuka, a professor at Hokkaido University.

Thousands of glaciers will vanish each year in the coming decades, leaving only a fraction standing by the end of the century unless global warming is curbed, a study published in *Nature Climate Change* reported on December 15.

Earlier this year, Iizuka and other scientists braved harsh conditions to a site at an altitude of 5,810 m on the Kon-Chukurbashi ice cap in the Pamir Mountains.

The area is the only mountainous region on the planet where glaciers have not only resisted melting, but have even grown slightly, a phenomenon called the Pamir-Karakoram anomaly.

The team drilled two ice columns approximately 105 m long out of the glacier.

One is being stored in an underground sanctuary in Antarctica; the other was shipped to Iizuka's facility, the Institute of Low Temperature Science at Hokkaido University in Sapporo, where the team is hunting clues on why precipitation in the region increased over the last century and how the glacier has resisted melting.

The area is the only mountainous region on the planet where glaciers have not only resisted melting, but have even grown slightly

Some link the anomaly to the area's cold climate or even increased use of agricultural water in Pakistan that creates more vapour. But the ice cores are the first opportunity to examine the anomaly scientifically.

"By understanding the causes behind the continuous build-up of snow from the past to the present, we can clarify what will happen going forward and why the ice has grown," Iizuka said.

Since the samples arrived in November, his team has worked in freezing storage facilities to log the density, alignment of snow grains, and the structure of ice layers.

In December, the scientists were kitted out like polar explorers to cut and shave ice samples in the comparatively balmy minus 20 C of their lab.

The samples can tell stories about weather conditions going back decades or even centuries.

A layer of clear ice indicates a warm period when the glacier melted and then refroze, while a low-density layer suggests packed snow, rather than ice, which can help estimate precipitation.

Brittle samples with cracks, meanwhile, indicate snowfall on half-melted layers that then refroze.

And other clues can reveal more information. Volcanic materials like sulphate ions can serve as time markers while water isotopes can reveal temperatures.

The scientists hope that the samples contain material dating back 10,000 years or more, though much of the glacier melted during a warm spell around 6,000 years ago.

Ancient ice would help scientists answer questions such as "what kind of snow was falling in this region 10,000 years ago? What was in it?" Iizuka said.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

The discovery of Epimetheus

Prathmesh Kher

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1
Name the American astronomer credited with discovering Epimetheus. He was actually verifying Audoin Dollfus's images, in which the latter had discovered a different moon. Astronomers later realised the moon the American had spotted was a new one: Epimitheus.

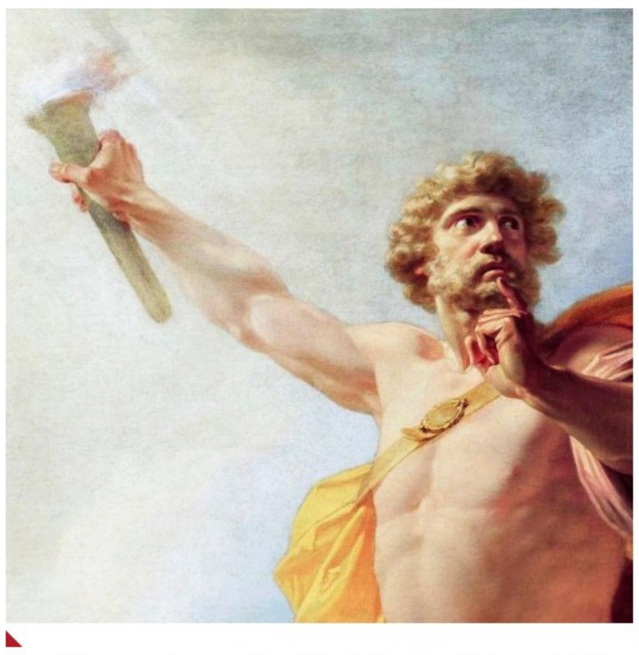
QUESTION 2
Epimetheus shares its orbit with another moon, X, the one Audoin Dollfus had found. Kepler's laws stipulate that the moon closer to Saturn should complete its orbit first, but the two moons' orbits differ so little that they complete their orbits only 30 seconds apart. Name X.

QUESTION 3
The two moons, Epimethius and X from Q2, periodically catch up with each other as they move around Saturn, and _____ _____. Fill in the blanks with an unusual phenomenon that's the result of the moons' gravitational interaction causing them to share and redistribute their momentum.

QUESTION 4
Both Epimetheus and X (from Q2) are together called _____ _____ because they have enough mass for their gravitational pull to sweep up any dust and rocks in their respective orbits. Other examples of such moons include Daphnis. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 5
Epimetheus appears to have darker terrain and smoother terrain as two types, and astronomers have reasons to believe the material in both areas is rich in _____ ___. Fill in the blanks.
Visual: The moon is named for a titan in Greek mythology who is the brother of Y. Together, Epimetheus and Y stand for Hindsight and Foresight. Name Y, depicts him performing a legendary action. Credit: Public domain

Answers to December 11 quiz:
1. Entity for whose interpretation Born won a Nobel – **Ans: Wavefunction**
2. Alternative QM formulation developed by Born and Heisenberg – **Ans: Matrix mechanics**
3. Entity whose slow motion underlies Born-Oppenheimer approximation – **Ans: Nuclei**
4. Chinese physicist who expanded Born's book on crystal lattices – **Ans: Kun Huang**
5. Indian institution where Born spent time in 1935-1936 – **Ans: IISc**
Visual: **Olivia Newton-John**
First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Anmol Agrawal | Mohammad Sohail | Parvej Khan



Visual: The moon is named for a titan in Greek mythology who is the brother of Y. Together, Epimetheus and Y stand for Hindsight and Foresight. Name Y; the image depicts him performing a legendary action. PUBLIC DOMAIN

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Delays plague R.R. Nagar flyover, underpass works as commuters bear the brunt

Two crucial projects aimed at decongesting R.R. Nagar have not moved an inch, while one long-neglected project has finally been revived

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai laid the foundation stone for all three projects in 2022
SUDHAKARA JAIN

Work in progress

Two R.R. Nagar flyover ramps
- Work began: 2022
- Ramp 1: 305 m
- Ramp 2: 350 m
- Total cost: ₹71.45 crore
- Deadline: July 2024

Ullal junction
- Work began: 2022
- Four-lane underpass: 324.4 m
- Total cost: ₹32.84 crore

Annapoorneshwarinagar underpass
- Work began: 2022
- Four lane underpass: 496 m
- Total cost: ₹29.16 crore

Much like last year, two crucial projects aimed at decongesting West Bengaluru's R.R. Nagar have not moved an inch, while one long-neglected project has finally been revived. Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai laid the foundation stone for all three projects in 2022. Since then, residents of the area haven't received anything more than false promises from the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike and, now, the West City Corporation.

The two untouched projects are the Rajarajeshwari Nagar arch ramps and the Annapoorneshwari Nagar junction underpass, intended to ease traffic flow on Mysuru Road in the western part of the city. Three years after work on these projects began, there has been negligible progress, followed by a complete halt. In contrast, work on the Ullal junction underpass, which had been stalled for three years, resumed last month and is now progressing.

However, officials of the West City Corporation appear to have little clarity on the status of these projects. Despite sustained attempts over two days to contact the Chief Engineer overseeing the projects, there was no response.

R.R. Nagar arch

The project involves the construction of two ramps: one connecting Kenchanahalli Road to Mysuru Road, spanning 305 metres, and another linking University Circle with Vrishabhavati Valley, running 350 metres. Taken up at an estimated cost of ₹71.45 crore, the project was scheduled for completion by July 2024, but has since been delayed.

The flyover was planned to benefit residents of Rajarajeshwari Nagar, BEML Layout, Banashankari 6th Stage, Channasandra, and Uttarahalli, while also facilitating a signal-free junction at the R.R. Nagar arch on Mysuru Road.

At present, only a few pillars have been completed. Just one pillar has been erected at the ground level near the turn-off towards Nayandahalli on Mysuru Road. This shoddy execution has become an eyesore for commuters.

The engineer who spoke to *The Hindu* said they had taken charge of the project only about a month ago and had limited knowledge of its progress. He, however, attributed the delay to land acquisition issues.

Arun Kumar, a resident of R.R. Nagar and an employee of a private firm, said the R.R. Nagar Arch junction on Mysuru Road is a major bottleneck. He pointed out that residents had already endured years of traffic disruption owing to metro construction.

"Again, for the last three years, most of our time has been wasted in traffic because of the flyover work. The government should not torture people by repeatedly claiming that flyovers are being built for public benefit," he said.

Delay in underpasses

On Ullal Road, work was stalled owing to land acquisition issues and the need to fell trees within the Jnanabharathi campus of Bangalore University. Work resumed a month ago, and the single-line grade separator from Nagarabavi to Bangalore University has since been completed.

Currently, work is under way on the remaining lanes. "It is pleasing that the work has resumed. However, progress is slow. As a result, traffic congestion at this junction is severe, with vehicles getting stuck for kilometres during peak hours," said Girish M.C., a resident of Visvesvaraya Layout.

In contrast, work on the Annapoorneshwari Nagar junction underpass has come to a complete standstill. The 496-metre underpass, estimated to cost ₹29.16 crore, remains unfinished. The half-completed structure has become overgrown with bushes, with no visible signs of activity, giving it the appearance of an abandoned site.

"This Outer Ring Road stretch, which connects Kengeri and Magadi Road, houses several educational institutions. Thousands of students commute through the Annapoorneshwari Nagar junction every day," said Rajendra Prasad, a resident of the area.

The engineer quoted earlier told *The Hindu* that the delay was owing to difficulties in acquiring land belonging to an educational institution along the road, an issue that has now been resolved. "We need to demolish the institution's compound wall for the project, which will be done in the next few days. The work will resume within 15 days," he said, though he declined to provide a tentative deadline for completing the project.

While commuters have borne the brunt of these delays for years, the projects are increasingly being seen as victims of political entanglements and civic body negligence rather than mere land acquisition hurdles. During the ongoing Winter Session, R.R. Nagar MLA N. Munirathna sought an update on the stalled projects without formally submitting a question. Responding to the impromptu query, Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar said he would have provided details had the MLA raised a formal question on the projects.

(This is the fourth of a multi-part series)

From Page One

Letter exposes 'in-house justice' at city apartment complex

A senior police officer from the southwest division said that the RWA of the apartment complex in Doddabele allegedly witnessed offences of both petty and serious nature involving residents as well as people from outside the State. The offences allegedly include theft, sexual harassment, and cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

The matter came to light after a whistleblower wrote an anonymous letter to the Kumbalagodu Police Inspector. Based on the letter, the police conducted a preliminary inquiry, which revealed that the RWA had handled more than 10 such cases.

A well-placed police source told *The Hindu* that the RWA conducted inquiries and collected fines in one sexual harassment case, one theft case, and 11 NDPS cases.

"Our preliminary inquiry showed that these 13 cases have occurred since 2024. We have asked the RWA to hand over all data and related documents," the officer said.

In a press statement, the police said that such illegal inquiries and actions resulted in the denial of justice to victims, suppression of information related to criminal offences, and assistance to accused persons in evading legal action.

An FIR has been filed at Kumabalgodu police station under Sections 211 (omission to give notice or information to a public servant by a person legally bound to do so), 238 (causing the disappearance of evidence of an offence or giving false information to screen an offender), and 239 (intentional omission to give information of an offence by a person bound to inform) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, along with Sections 3(5) and 3(6). Provisions of the NDPS Act have also been invoked.

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Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
DIRECTORATE OF MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

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3. Sale Deed/Registered Deed Number
   (Electronically obtained from Kaveri Online Services)
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   (Not required for vacant sites)
5. Photograph of Property
6. EC: 15/16
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Additional chief secretary
Urban development department
Government of Karnataka

Deepa Cholan, IAS
Secretary
Urban Development Department
Government of Karnataka

Prabhuling Kavalikatti, IAS
Director, Directorate of Municipal Administration
Urban Development Department
Government of Karnataka

Protecting public property and refraining from violence A constitutional fundamental duty of every Indian

A BG-BGE

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of government schools with zero students

5,149 Of the 10.13 lakh government schools across India, 5,149 have no students at all. And more than 70% of these schools reporting zero enrolment in the 2024-25 academic year are in Telangana and West Bengal, according to government data. PTI

Number of Afghan refugee camps shut down by Pakistan

42 The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan on Wednesday said it has shut down as many as 42 camps that had housed Afghan refugees for over 40 years. Millions of Afghan refugees crossed into Pakistan after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. PTI

Number of National Highway projects behind schedule

574 As many as 574 under construction National Highway (NH) projects worth ₹3.60 lakh crore have exceeded their completion schedule. Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said 133 NH projects with total cost of about ₹1 lakh crore have been awarded. PTI

EU members who voted to delay the deforestation law

405 The European parliament approved an EU deal to delay its anti-deforestation law by a year, until December 2026, clearing the penultimate legal hurdle before the delay can pass into law. The parliament voted to approve the delay, with 405 lawmakers in favour. REUTERS

Number of posts currently vacant in the Delhi Police

9,248 Over 10% of the sanctioned strength in Delhi Police is currently vacant, with the Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) rank recording the highest proportion of vacancies at over 36%. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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How is the Aravalli range to be protected?

How do the Aravalli hills and ranges prevent the desertification of the Indo-Gangetic plain? What were the recommendations of the Central Empowered Committee? Why was it necessary to arrive at a uniform definition of the Aravalli hills? Has the Supreme Court completely banned mining in the ranges?

EXPLAINER

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:
The Supreme Court (SC), in an order last month, settled on a uniform definition of the Aravalli hills and ranges, and paused the grant of fresh mining leases inside its areas spanning Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

What is the range's significance?
Apart from being nearly two billion years old and India's oldest mountain range, they serve as an important ecological barrier to prevent the desertification of the Indo-Gangetic plains. They help arrest the eastward spread of the Thar Desert into Haryana, Rajasthan and western Uttar Pradesh, and play a major role in stabilising climate, supporting biodiversity, and recharging groundwater. Stretching from Delhi to Gujarat across 650 km, the mountains support water-recharge systems and are the source of important rivers such as the Chambal, Sabarmati, and Luni. It is richly endowed with sandstone, limestone, marble, granite, and minerals such as lead, zinc, copper, gold, and tungsten. While historically mined for these resources, it has in the past four decades been excessively quarried for stone and sand. This has contributed to deteriorating air quality as well as plummeting groundwater recharge. A proportion of the mining has also been illegal. The Court noted that India is bound by international commitments, under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, to protect vulnerable ecosystems such as the Aravalli range.

Was action taken against mining?
The Environment Ministry, since the early 1990s, has laid down rules restricting mining to only sanctioned projects but these have been flagrantly violated. In 2009, the SC stepped in and imposed a blanket ban on mining in the Faridabad, Gurugram, and Mewat districts of Haryana. In May 2024, the SC prohibited granting of fresh mining leases and renewals in the range and directed its Central Empowered Committee (CEC) to undertake a detailed examination, leading to a set of recommendations submitted in March 2024. The CEC proposed a comprehensive approach that included a complete scientific mapping of the Aravalli range across all States; a macro-level environmental impact assessment of mining activities; and strict prohibition of mining in ecologically sensitive areas such as protected habitats, water bodies, tiger corridors, key aquifer recharge zones and areas within the National Capital Region. It urged stringent regulation of stone-crushing units. It also recommended that no new mining leases or renewals be permitted until proper mapping and impact assessments were completed. These recommendations were taken up by the Court in its order of November 2025. Futher, in June, 2025, the Centre started an Aravalli 'Green Wall' project. The plan is to expand green cover in the five-km buffer area around the Aravallis in 29 districts of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi. The government said this initiative will play a crucial role in restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.

Threatened landscape: A sunrise against the Aravalli mountain ranges in Ajmer, Rajasthan, in 2022. AP

Why a uniform definition?
The Court found that States were using inconsistent criteria to identify Aravalli formations. There have also been differing definitions, including by expert groups such as the Forest Survey of India (FSI) on what makes up 'Aravalli Hills and Ranges.' In 2010, the FSI had said hills with "(i) slope >3°, (ii) foothill buffer = 100m, (iii) inter hill distance or valley width= 500m and (iv) the area enclosed by above defined hills from all sides," would make up Aravalli hill and ranges. To resolve this, it constituted a committee comprising representatives from the Environment Ministry, the FSI, State Forest Departments, the Geological Survey of India and the CEC. This committee was tasked with creating a scientifically grounded, nationwide definition of the Aravallis. The committee submitted its findings in October 2025. The SC committee finally ruled that only hills above 100 metres would make the cut. The amicus curae, K. Parameswar, objected that this was too narrow a definition and potentially opened all the hills below 100 metres for mining, compromising "...their continuity and integrity. " However, the Additional Solicitor General, Aishwarya Bhati countered that the definition on slopes, foothill buffers etc. as proposed by the FSI would, on the contrary, exclude large areas from the Aravalli Hills and Ranges. The committee recommendations of 100m was far more inclusive.

What are the SC's other directions?
The Court directed the preparation of a detailed Management Plan for Sustainable Mining (MPSM) covering the entire Aravalli range. The plan must demarcate areas where mining must be absolutely prohibited, identify zones where limited and highly regulated mining may be permitted, map sensitive habitats and wildlife corridors, evaluate cumulative ecological impacts, determine ecological carrying capacity, and articulate restoration and rehabilitation measures.

Why was there no ban on mining?
The Court explained that past experiences show total bans often lead to the rise of illegal mining syndicates, violent sand mafias and unregulated extraction. The Court therefore opted for a calibrated approach: existing legal mining continues under tight regulation, new mining is paused until a scientifically driven plan is prepared, and permanently sensitive areas remain off-limits.

THE GIST

- The Environment Ministry, since the early 1990s, has laid down rules restricting mining to only sanctioned projects but these have been flagrantly violated.
- In June, 2025, the Centre started an Aravalli 'Green Wall' project. The plan is to expand green cover in the five-km buffer area around the Aravallis in 29 districts of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi. The government said this initiative will play a crucial role in restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.
- The Court explained that past experiences show total bans often lead to the rise of illegal mining syndicates, violent sand mafias and unregulated extraction.

Why have Thailand-Cambodia border clashes flared up again?

Why is the border between the two countries contested? How did the U.S. broker a ceasefire?

R. Preetha

The story so far:
On December 8, Thailand launched airstrikes into Cambodia after clashes erupted along their disputed border, with both sides accusing each other of breaching the U.S.-brokered ceasefire in October. On December 12, after calls with both leaders, President Trump stated that Thailand and Cambodia had agreed to "cease all shooting". However, Thailand has vowed to continue military actions until threats are neutralised.

What happened early this year?
In May 2025, tensions between the two countries escalated when a Cambodian soldier was killed in a skirmish, leading to troop buildup and diplomatic strains. July witnessed five days of intense fighting involving artillery, rockets, and Thai airstrikes that killed at least 48 people and displaced over 3,00,000. A ceasefire was brokered through U.S. pressure and Malaysian mediation, ending the tensions. The truce was formalised in October with an agreement signed in Kuala Lumpur. However, in November, Thailand suspended its implementation after a landmine injured a soldier. It accused Cambodia of planting new mines.

On December 7 and 8, clashes renewed, escalating to Thai airstrikes targeting Cambodian military sites, including alleged rocket positions. As of now, casualties include over 15 Thai soldiers and dozens on the Cambodian side, along with mass civilian evacuations.

What is the border dispute about?
The core issue is sovereignty over un-demarcated sections of the 817-km border, inherited from colonial-era treaties concluded in 1904 and 1907 between France (which ruled Cambodia) and Siam (present-day Thailand) respectively. These agreements planned for the boundary to follow the Dangrek Mountains watershed, but the French-drawn maps placed key ancient Khmer temples, particularly Preah Vihear, on the Cambodian side.

The 11th century Hindu temple Preah Vihear has been central to the dispute, with both countries claiming historical ownership. In 1962, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that Preah Vihear belonged to Cambodia, although the surrounding promontory remained contested. Later, in 2013, the ICJ clarification affirmed Cambodian sovereignty over most of the area.

Nationalist sentiments in both countries complicate the bilateral issue, with temples reflecting historical Khmer glory for Cambodia and territorial integrity for Thailand. Between 2008-2011, deadly clashes occurred after Cambodia tried to list Preah Vihear as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

How have mediation efforts fared?
Since the major clashes in 2008-11, several mediation efforts involving the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the ICJ, and external actors, aimed at resolving the dispute, have failed. In 2011, ASEAN, under Indonesia's chairmanship, played a key role. It proposed deploying Indonesian observers to monitor a ceasefire and support troop withdrawals from a demilitarised zone ordered by the ICJ that year. But Thailand resisted any third-party involvement.

In 2025, renewed fighting in July led to fresh mediation efforts. President Trump held calls with leaders in Bangkok and Phnom Penh; his threats of 36% tariffs on exports to the U.S., their biggest market, led to an unconditional ceasefire.

What is the way forward?
At the border level, de-escalation should build on measures attempted under the October agreement, including verifiable troop withdrawals, joint de-mining, and direct military communication. At the bilateral level, sustained engagement through joint commissions is necessary for border demarcation; Thailand's preference for bilateral talks must be reconciled with Cambodia's openness to third-party involvement.

R. Preetha is pursuing a postgraduate degree at Stella Maris College, Chennai.

THE GIST

- On December 8, Thailand launched airstrikes into Cambodia after clashes erupted along their disputed border, with both sides accusing each other of breaching the U.S.-brokered ceasefire in October.
- The 11th century Hindu temple Preah Vihear has been central to the dispute, with both countries claiming historical ownership.
- At the border level, de-escalation should build on measures attempted under the October agreement, including verifiable troop withdrawals, joint de-mining, and direct military communication.

Wife pleaded with strangers and sister performed CPR, but man dies after multiple hospital refusals

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After being turned away by three hospitals and denied timely emergency care while suffering severe chest pain, a 34-year-old man died, while his wife pleaded with passers-by for help and watched his condition worsen. The family has alleged that a series of refusals, delays and lack of emergency response turned a medical emergency into a fatal ordeal.

Venkat Ramanan

Chest pain

On December 14 at around 3 a.m., Venkat Ramanan began complaining of intense chest pain and vomiting, his wife Roopa K. told *The Hindu*. As the symptoms persisted and worsened, the couple decided to seek medical attention around 3.30 a.m. With no auto and cab available, Mr. Ramanan rode his two-wheeler with his wife to a multi-speciality hospital in Banashankari 3rd Stage.

On reaching the hospital, they were told that no duty doctor was available to attend to him. With his condition deteriorating, the couple then rushed to another hospital, where emergency doctors conducted an ECG.

However, Ms. Roopa said that despite her husband repeatedly asking for medication to relieve the pain, no treatment was initiated. Instead, the doctors advised them to go to another hospital, stating that his condition was serious, requiring specialised care.

When Mr. Ramanan's pain intensified, Ms. Roopa contacted his relatives to arrange a car. Unable to bear the pain, Mr. Ramanan set out again on his two-wheeler and reached a third hospital.

According to Ms. Roopa, he was not admitted there either, with hospital staff reportedly stating that his condition was too serious and declining to take him inside.

Then they decided to go to Jayadeva Hospital, and while driving there, Mr. Ramanan lost balance and the couple fell on the road. Ms. Roopa said he remained alive for at least three minutes after the fall.

"I was bleeding and kept pleading with people around us to help, but no one stopped. Till then even his sister had not reached," she said. After a few minutes, Mr. Ramanan's sister reached the spot and attempted CPR, hoping he could be stabilised until medical help arrived. Despite the effort, his condition continued to worsen.

The wait ended when a cab driver, attached to a corporate firm, stopped and rushed Mr. Ramanan to a nearby hospital. Doctors there administered emergency shock treatment but declared him dead on arrival. The family said they were later informed that he had suffered a stroke.

"Hospitals refused us, ambulance services did not respond properly and even on the road, no one came forward to help," Ms. Roopa said, alleging a complete failure of both the healthcare system and basic human compassion.

Eyes donated

Despite the trauma, the family chose to honour Mr. Ramanan's wish by donating his eyes.

Ms. Roopa said the decision was taken in keeping with his belief that even in death, one could help others. Mr. Ramanan is survived by his wife, his mother, and two young children, a five-year-old son, and an 18-month-old daughter.

'Apply child custody guidelines framed by Calcutta HC for now'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka (HCK) has ordered application of the Child Access and Custody Guidelines along with Parenting Plan-2025, notified recently by the High Court of Calcutta (HCC), by all trial courts in the State till the HCK frames its rules for child custody based on these guidelines with appropriate changes.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha passed the interim order while hearing a PIL petition, which the court *suo motu* initiated in 2023 to frame guidelines for determining issues of child custody in matrimonial disputes before various judicial fora and to involve experts in human psychology.

During the hearing on the petition on December 15, the guidelines notified by the HCC in September 2025 were submitted before the Bench, which in turn decided to follow these guidelines till the Rule Committee of the HCK analysed the guidelines and comes out with rules for Karnataka.

Meanwhile, the Bench said the guidelines framed by the HCC should be applied by all the trial courts in Karnataka exercising jurisdiction in the matters relating to Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, till the HCK framed rules.

The Bench noted that the HCC while considering a PIL petition for a direction to frame appropriate guidelines for child access, child custody along with parental plan, had referred the matter to HCC's Rule Committee, which invited suggestions from district judges, directors of the judicial academy, State of West Bengal, child psychologists, and other relevant stakeholders, who had held various deliberations.

After the framing of the guidelines, the HCC adopted it on September 23, 2025, for its application in child custody cases till it framed rules based on the guidelines, the Bench noted while adjourning further hearing on the petition till March 13, 2026.

Bengaluru East City Corporation
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Marathahalli Division, Bellandur Main Road,
Bellandur, Bengaluru-560 103.

No. BECC/EE/MRH/TN/03/2025-26 Date: 17.12.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through GOK KPP Portal only)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer, Marathahalli Division, BECC, Bengaluru, invites item rates tenders from eligible contractors registered GBA (BBMP) with KPWD/CPWD/ Railways/MES/any State Govt. Organisations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amount put to Tender (₹. in Lakhs) Exclusive of GST	EMD (in ₹.)
1.	Construction of Shelter for Street Dogs (Dog Kennels) at Panathuru Village in Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency.	171.00	2,57,000/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for submission of queries: **22.12.2025 within 11:00 a.m. (2)** Date & Time for pre bid meeting: **22.12.2025 at 3:00 p.m. (3)** Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders: **26.12.2025 upto 4:00 p.m. (4)** Date & Time for opening Technical Bid: **29.12.2025 at 4:00 p.m. (5)** Date & Time for opening financial bid: **30.12.2025 at 4:30 p.m.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Marathahalli Division, BECC.

KALYAN KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION VIJAYAPUR DIVISION

NO:KKRTC:VJP:TR:COMM:2558:2025-26 Dated:06.12.2025

E-Tender Publication [No: 2025/07]

Vijayapur Division invited E-Tender (Through E-Procurement) for Commercial Shops, Refreshment Rooms, Open Space of Various Bus Stands comes under this Division, detailed tender schedule is as below.

1) Last Date for submitting online application: **08.01.2026** at 17.30 PM.

2) E-Tender Opening **Date :10.01.2026** at 10.00 Am onward

For details visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or Contact D.T.O :7760992252 or Commercial Case Worker (Traffic Section) @ Divisional Office during office hours.

Sd/- Divisional Controller, K.K.R.T.C Vijayapur Division.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/546/ಕೆಸ್ಎಂಪಿಎ/2025–26

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
Jalabhavana, 5th Floor, No.5, 1st Stage, 1st Phase,
BTM Layout, Bannerughatta Main Road, Bengaluru-560029

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

No: KWB/TEC/CE(B)/Chitradurga DC Works/1407/ 2025-26, Dated: 17.12.2025

Name of the Work: Tender for the work of Interception and Diversion works across Pillekerenalli Nala to divert the sewage entering Mallapura Lake Operation and Maintenance for a period of 3 years (including 1 Year DLP) under DC Works of CMC, Chitradurga in Lumpsum mode (No Variation)

Indent No.:KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT449/Call-2

For further details may be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website:
https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (B),
DIPR/CP/4495/CCL/2025-26 **KUWS & D Board, Bengaluru**

SANJAY GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS
(Government of Karnataka Autonomous Institute)
Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 560 011 Ph: 080-26564516, 26562500 Grams: SITO Fax: 26565222 E-mail: sitodirector@gmail.com
No. SGITO/e-Tender/Cath lab(12)/Analyser(14)/2025-26 Date:16-12-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma & Orthopaedics, Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 11 invites tender from the eligible tenderers through the KPP portal of GOK for The Following:-

(1) CONVERSION OF MODULAR O.T INTO HYBRID CATH LAB SUITE FOR PERIPHERAL INTERVENTIONS
(2) SUPPLY OF AUTOMATED PROTEIN ANALYSER FOR RA AND CRP

(1) The Tenderers can download the documents from: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** on or after **18-12-2025** and the last date for submission of completed tenders through kpp portal is **20-01-2026** upto **4:00** PM.
(2) The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept / reject or cancel tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Director
DIPR/SI/4485/2025-26 **Tender Inviting Authority**

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bengaluru Division,
2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle,
Bengaluru-01, Phone: 080-22133370

No. 44/2025-26 Date: 16.12.2025

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Item-rate tenders, for the work in PWD, **Anekal & Doddaballapura Sub-Division** under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP. Tender Notification is Publised for **09 works (Rs.14.00 to 450.00 Lakhs)** Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sl.No.01 to 03: (1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal **on or before 4.00 P.M. on: 24.12.2025 (2)** The opening of tenders through KPP portal on: **26.12.2025 at 11.30 A.M.** or further date and time will be Intimated.

Sl.No.04 to 09: (1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal **on or before 4.00 P.M. on : 01.01.2026 (2)** The opening of tenders through KPP portal on: **02.01.2026 at 4.30 P.M.** or further date and time will be Intimated. For more details contact this office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/DD-C.P/4490/KSMCA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

No. 5327/PW/EE/BRC/DB/DR/25-26 Puducherry dt. 17/12/2025

PRESS NOTICE FOR e-Tender

The Executive Engineer, Buildings & Roads (Central) Division, Public Works Department, Puducherry (Official email Id: eebrcpwd@py.gov.in) invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage rate bids from the approved and eligible contractors/firms for the following works:

1.N/W: "Improvements to Kamaraj Salai and reconstruction of L/U drain from Anna salai junction to Rajiv Gandhi square, Puducherry." **Tender No.** 93/PW/BRC/25-26, **Estimate Cost** ₹10,18,61,168/- (inclusive of GST), **Earnest Money** ₹20,18,612/-. **2. N/W:** "Improvements to the road & Reconstruction of U/L drain in Vallalar salai from Anna salai junction to Kamaraj salai junction, Puducherry." **Tender No.** 94/PW/BRC/25-26, **Estimate Cost** ₹9,34,77,483/- (inclusive of GST), **Earnest Money** ₹18,69,550/-. **3. N/W:** Improvements to the Jawaharlal Nehru street from Anna Salai to Mission street, Puducherry." **Tender No.** 95/PW/BRC/25-26, **Estimate Cost** ₹8,78,46,647/- (inclusive of GST), **Earnest Money** ₹17,56,933/-. **4. N/W:** "Improvements to the platform and drain along Lal Bahadur Shastri (Bussy) Street, from Anna salai to Beachroad, Puducherry." **Tender No.** 96/PW/BRC/25-26, **Estimate Cost** ₹6,19,53,913/- (inclusive of GST), **Earnest Money** ₹12,39,078/-. Last date and time of submission of bid on (or) before **04.00 PM on 05/01/2026.** Date & Time of Opening of bid **10.30 AM on 06/01/2026.** The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website **www.pudutenders.gov.in**

No: 640/DIP/AD(Press)/2025-26 **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that the following original documents relating to a vacant property bearing the Northern Portion of **Site No. 297,** having a total sital area of **2707 sq.ft** situated in the BDA-approved layout known as **"Royal County"**, 8th Phase, J.P. Nagar, Bengaluru, formed in residentially converted Survey Numbers of **Kothanur Village,** Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, and falling within the limits of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bengaluru, have been lost/misplaced and are not traceable to date.

a. Sale Deed executed by Sri. T.K. Deepak, s/o Sri. T.S.Krishnamurthy and others in favour of Sri.G.Prasad Reddy, s/o Sri.G.Srinivasa Reddy, registered as document No.KEN-1-08145/2004-05 of Book 1, stored in CD No.KEND86 dated 07.06.2004 at the office of the Senior Sub Registrar, Kengeri, Bangalore.

b. Sale Deed executed by Sri.G.Prasad Reddy, s/o Sri.G.Srinivasa Reddy, in favour of Sri.Jairaj T. Galagali, s/o Sri.T.N.Galagali and Smt.Kalpana Galagali, w/o Sri.Jairaj T.Galagali, registered as document No.KEN-1-14701/2004-05 of Book 1, stored in CD No.KEND115 dated 14.07.2004 at the office of the Senior Sub Registrar, Kengeri, Bangalore.

Any person who is in possession of the above-referred original Sale Deeds is hereby requested to hand over the same to **Smt. E. Swapna,** wife of Sri E. R. G. Madhan Mohan, residing at **Flat No. 401, Site No. 1861, 4th Floor, 7 Hills Cauvery Apartments, Pipeline Road, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bengaluru – 560078,** or to the undersigned.

The said **Smt. E. Swapna** has complained to the local police on **24.11.2025** regarding the loss of the original documents. **Except Smt. E. Swapna, no other person(s) have any right, title, interest, or ownership** in respect of the aforesaid immovable property.

Any person or persons dealing with or transacting in respect of the aforesaid property with anyone other than **Smt. E. Swapna shall do so at their own risk, cost, and consequences.**

Tejaswini
Advocate
202, Hubtown Prime,
3/2, A.M.Road, Halasuru,
Bengaluru – 560 042
Mobile: 9880629363
Place : Bengaluru Date : 18.12.2025

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಶ್ರೀ ಮಲೈ ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ,
ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಬೆಟ್ಟ, ಹನೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08225–272128 Email : sec.mmtemple@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಶ್ರೀ ಮ.ಮ.ಕ್ಷೇ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ/3/ಜಿಆರ್/16/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13–12–2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1.	ಶ್ರೀಮಲೈ ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಪೂಜಾ ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಬೇಕಾದ ಬಲಿತ ದಪ್ಪ ಸೈಜಿನ ತೆಂಗಿನಕಾಯಿಗಳನ್ನು ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ 3,40,000 ತೆಂಗಿನ ಕಾಯಿಗಳನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಎಲ್ಲಾ ತೆರಿಗೆಗಳು ಸೇರಿ. ಒಂದು ತೆಂಗಿನಕಾಯಿಗೆ ದರ.	99–00	99,000–00

ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 29–12–2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ವಿಷಯ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 9886306737 ನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯಡಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿವೆ.

1.	ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳು ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15–12–2025	ರ ನಂತರ
2.	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಲ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30–12–2025	ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
3.	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಲ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31–12–2025	ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಶ್ರೀ ಮಲೈ ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಬೆಟ್ಟ

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ವಾಸಾಸಂ:ಚಾಸಗರ:569:2025–26

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ನಂ:ದಾಮಪಾ:ಕಾಅ1.ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:41:2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:15–12–2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ.(4ನೇ ಕರೆ)– 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ – 03 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಒಟ್ಟು 04 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಿಂಗಲ್/ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಏಜನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ www.davanagerecity.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: +91–8046010000 +91–8068948777 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ.1 ಮತ್ತು 04 ರ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ : ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 18–12–2025 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 26–12–2025 ಸಮಯ : 16.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 26–12–2025 ಸಮಯ : 17.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 29–12–2025 ಸಮಯ : 11.00

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ.02, 03 ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ : ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 18–12–2025 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 01–01–2026 ಸಮಯ : 16.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 01–01–2026 ಸಮಯ : 17.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 03–01–2026 ಸಮಯ : 11.00

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/564/ ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

ಜಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ
Chamarajanagar Institute of Medical Sciences
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka)
Sy. No. 124, Yadapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Chamarajanagar - 571313
Email : directorcimscrnagara@gmail.com
Tel : 08226-226701, Website : https://cimscrnagara.karnataka.gov.in

No. CIMS/Tender/TELE/60/2024-25/Call-3 Dated : 11-12-2025

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub. : Invitation for re-tender for tele reporting of radiology services to Department of Radiology of CIMS Teaching Hospital, Chamarajanagar

The Tender has been invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 Rules 2000 for Tele reporting of Radiology services to teaching hospitals of this Institution. Interested Tenderers are informed to apply the tender on or before dated 31-12-2025 at 5.00 pm by paying EMD.

If the last date for submission of tender declared as Government Holiday, the next working day shall be treated as last date. No separate Notification in this regard will be issued. Interested tenderers may contact the college authorities for further information.

Sd/- Director and Dean,
Chamarajanagar Institute of Medical Sciences
Chamarajanagar.

No. : DIPR:CHANAGAR:566:2025-26

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ
ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–562123, ದೂ.: 080–27722135, ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ: 080–27722135, Web : www.nelamangala.mrc.gov.in, Email : itstaff_ulb_nelamangala@yahoo.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ನಸನೆ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ(ವಿ)/ಟೆಂಡರ್/45/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.12.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)
(ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್‌ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ KW 1&2 ರ & KG ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಂತೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ & ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ)

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರಿಂದ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ. 53.30 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಐಟಾಂವಾರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಏಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮುಂತಾದ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** ಹಾಗೂ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ಶ್ರೀ ಗಣೇಶ ಎನ್	ಶ್ರೀ ಆನಂದ್ ಜಿ	ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ. ಪದ್ಮನಾಬ್	ಶ್ರೀ ಗಂಗಾಧರ ಹೆಚ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು	ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು	ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸ್ಥಾಯಿ ಸಮಿತಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು	ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ	ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ	ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ	ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/4492/ಕಿರಡಿಸಾಯ/2025–26

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BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders from eligible contractors for the following works.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD (in Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-East), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.					
1	WWM C.Valley-1	BWSSB/EE(WWM)CV-1/PB/ 609/2025-26, Date: 09.12.2025	Rs. 99.88 Lakhs / Rs. 2.00 Lakhs	26.12.2025 upto 4:30 p.m.	29.12.2025 at 5:00 p.m.
			Sd/- Executive Engineer(WWM) C.Valley-1.		
2	WWM K-Valley	BWSSB/EE(WWM-K-V)/AE/PB/784/ 2025-26, Date: 09.12.2025 (2nd Call)	Rs. 24,42,542/- / Rs. 48,850/-	25.12.2025 upto 4:00 p.m.	26.12.2025 at 4:00 p.m.
3		BWSSB/EE(WWM-K-V)/AE/PB/785/ 2025-26, Date: 09.12.2025 (2nd Call)	Rs. 45,63,589/- / Rs. 91,280/-		
			Sd/- Executive Engineer(WWM-K-Valley) .		
Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.					
4	South West-2	BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB/ 4347/2025-26, Date: 15.12.2025	Rs. 8,12,469/- / Rs. 20,400/-	24.12.2025 upto 5:00 p.m.	26.12.2025 after 10:30 a.m.
			Sd/- Executive Engineer(South-West-2).		
Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & Quality Assurance), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.					
5	RB-IT	BWSSB/ERB/705/ 2025-26, Date: 04.12.2025	— / Rs. 1,11,900/-	01.01.2026 upto 3:00 p.m.	02.01.2026 after 4:00 p.m.
			Sd/- Executive Engineer(RB-IT).		

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/RA/4497/2025-26

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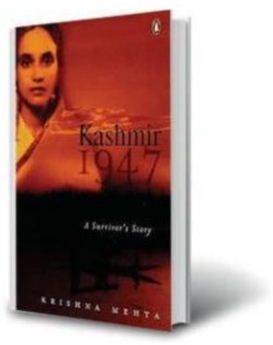
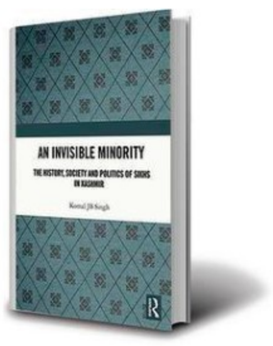
BIBLIOGRAPHY

In memoriam: S. Dalip Singh Deepak holding the only known photograph of his late brother, S. Joginder Singh, who was killed in the Kabaili Raids. KANWAL SINGH





Forgotten footprints: the story of Sikhs uprooted from Kashmir post Partition

In 1947, as India and Pakistan were torn apart by Partition, a little-known invasion unfolded in Jammu and Kashmir. A new documentation for the 1947 Partition Archives tells the story of Dalip Singh Deepak, revealing a chapter of history often erased from South Asia's collective memory

Kanwal Singh

The broader Partition discourse in South Asia has often overlooked the horrors endured by the people of Jammu & Kashmir during the tribal raids of 1947. Works like *Freedom at Midnight* and *Midnight's Furies* mention it only in passing. Only a handful of works by authors and survivors from J&K offer deeper context, eyewitness testimonies, and vital historical detail that illuminate the region's largely forgotten trauma.

One of the earliest and searing eyewitness accounts is Krishna Mehta's memoir, *Kashmir 47-48*, (also published as *Kashmir 1947: A Survivor's Story*). Mehta, the wife of a senior civil servant stationed in Muzaffarabad as the Wazir-i-Wazarat, records the sudden collapse of civil administration as tribal raiders entered the town in October 1947. Her memoir traces the attack on her home, her escape with her children, and the terror that gripped civilians as order disintegrated. What distinguishes her narrative is not only the violence she witnesses but her attention to the everyday textures of fear: children separated from parents, and women navigating survival in captivity. Mehta's account refuses the language of abstraction, and moral dilemmas during the invasion. It insists that the tribal raids and the first war over Kashmir was, before anything else, a humanitarian catastrophe.

If Mehta's memoir captures the shock of invasion, Amar Nath Saraf's *Rajouri Remembered* documents what followed in one of the worst-affected regions. Drawing on survivor testimonies, local records, and personal recollection, Saraf reconstructs the massacre and displacement at Rajouri in 1947-48. His work stands out for its insistence on naming the dead and recording the silences left behind. Rajouri, in Saraf's telling, is not a strategic footnote but a landscape of trauma on which scars remain visible across generations.

Together, these books establish a crucial point: the violence in J&K during Partition was not peripheral to the subcontinent's history. It altered cultural geographies, redefined identities and the demographic landscape of J&K. Countless Sikhs, Hindus, and Muslims from areas now in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir endured trauma, loss of family and homes, and decades of marginalisation.

Mapping an absence

Yet even these accounts leave gaps, especially regarding the Sikhs of J&K, who were deeply rooted across Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, Budgam, Baramulla, Poonch, and even the frontier regions of Gilgit, Skardu and Baltistan.

That absence is addressed powerfully in *An Invisible Minority: The History, Society and Politics of Sikhs in Kashmir* by Komal J.B. Singh (Routledge, 2025). In Chapter 2, Singh traces the history of Sikhs in Kashmir and the abrupt rupture of 1947. She shows how the tribal invasion transformed Sikhs into an "invisible" minority – numerically small, politically peripheral, and largely excluded from dominant narratives of Kashmir's past. Singh's work provides the structural and historical framework within which individual testimonies must be read.

These books, the missing landscape, photographs in an old family album and a handwritten draft of my grandfather's memoir, 'Nangali Sahib and 1947', led me to talk to survivors for their 1947 recollections. In those fading images lived a story history forgot: how J&K, untouched by the Radcliffe Line, was forced into a war when armed tribal militias swept across its borders in October 1947. I then decided to train as an oral historian with The 1947 Partition Archive, to record the voices of people from J&K that history had sidelined.

That work led me to 96-year-old Sardar Dalip Singh Deepak, a retired educator and author from Budgam, Kashmir and one of the last living witnesses.

The last survivor

On October 22, 1947, thousands of tribal fighters backed by Pakistan invaded J&K, swept through Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, Kotli, Baramulla and parts of Poonch and the Valley. Amid the collapse of order, Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession acceding J&K to India on October 26, enabling India's military intervention. At dawn on October 27, the 1st Sikh Kumaon Regiment was airlifted to Srinagar, but by then thousands had already suffered irreversible losses, marking the start of the first Indo-Pak war. Born in 1931, Sardar Dalip Singh was just 16 when the 1947 tribal invasion ripped through Kashmir and made him an orphan overnight. In his village, Atina, and nearby Gohlar, 300 Sikhs lost their lives. His mother, Sardarni Mani Kour, was shot dead at their doorstep. His nine-year-old sister, Harbans Kaur disappeared, never to be found. One brother was killed; another died days later from bullet wounds as the family left Srinagar. When Dalip returned months later, his mother's decomposed body and blood stained clothes still lay where she had fallen. "The world can never understand this grief," he said quietly, "Villages in Muzaffarabad were among the first to be destroyed. Thousands were killed, and thousands displaced, as refugee caravans walked over Dhumel Bridge and fled toward Poonch and Srinagar."

Some Sikh villages mounted a defence at Ichahama, Kashmir, using sticks, tools and small arms to delay the Kabaili advance – a resistance that helped buy time for Indian troops to be airlifted to Srinagar and provide a safe passage to refugees. Historians agree that this resistance may well have altered the course of Kashmir's history.

Rebuilding from rubble

Despite receiving only ₹250 as government compensation, Dalip Singh rebuilt his life from an orphaned teenager to educator and author. From becoming an orphan to rebuilding his life, to discovering the photograph of his martyred brother, S. Joginder Singh, at Piyara Photographs in Lal Chowk, Srinagar – these experiences are not preserved in state archives or history books. They survive in memory and in Dalip Singh Deepak's writings. His books, *Hadsian Choun Phutte Akkhar* (Words Born out of Tragedies), Lokgeet Prakashan, 2008, *Anhad Naad* (The Eternal Sound), Deepak Prakashan, 2021, and *Sehaj Subhaye* (Divine Equanimity), Deepak Prakashan, 2021, are not conventional histories. They are works of reflection shaped by loss, faith, resilience and an effort to anchor trauma within spiritual and historical continuity.

What unites Mehta, Saraf, Singh, and Dalip Singh Deepak, is not genre but urgency. Each, in different ways, confronts a history that South Asia has been unwilling to fully face. Together, they remind us that the story of the tribal invasion in J&K is not complete without its witnesses and survivors.

As these witnesses age and pass on, the responsibility shifts. Listening, recording, and acknowledging these truths is necessary. Stories like Dalip Singh Deepak's are not historical footnotes; they are testaments to courage, and the human spirit's refusal to let memory fade. For as long as these stories remain marginal, the wounds of 1947 will continue to shape one of the world's most volatile and dangerous borders.

Kanwal Singh is a writer, columnist and scholar from J&K.

Language in conversation

Vaishali R. Venkat

"Genie, what's taking you so long? I've rubbed the lamp a hundred times now."

"Dear Moon, I'm flying in from the Arctic, which explains the delay. What's on your mind?"

"Genie, yesterday two snakes came to our backyard. We were frightened. My father searched for them but couldn't find them. Then an elderly man came to our house and played his ball-like flute. Within minutes, the snakes emerged, and he placed them in his bag."

"Moon, the elderly man is a snake charmer. He's trained in the art of charming snakes, but the word 'charm' is used here in a different sense. In this context, it means to control and mesmerise snakes. What he plays isn't a flute. It's a 'pungi', pronounced PUN-gee, with pun as in Sun and fun, and gee as the letter G. It's also called a 'been' or 'bin'. Also, snakes don't really come; they slither into the garden."

"Wow, Genie, this is why I've been rubbing the lamp so insistently. I want to impress my English teacher. Genie, it strikes me now that my father has cleared the bushes in our backyard and laid concrete flooring. Could a snake still slither in? I suspect my neighbour. He speaks pleasantly to my father, but my mother asks him not to trust the man."

"Moon, your neighbour may be 'a snake in the grass'."

"How can a human being be a snake?"

"Moon, it refers to an unpleasant person who can't be trusted."

"I'm beginning to doubt my uncle too, Genie. My father has always treated him well and taken care of his needs. Yet he turned treacherous over time."

"Moon, then your uncle is 'a snake (or viper) in your father's bosom'. The two idioms sound similar, but the distinction becomes clear when you reflect on them."

"I see the distinction now, Genie. One refers to a potential betrayer you need to be wary of, and the other refers to someone who has already betrayed your trust."

"Yes, Moon."

"Genie, there's something about my neighbour I don't like. He presents himself as a good person and appears agreeable, but his words are always sharp and critical. His speech carries a biting edge, often resorting to acerbic and malicious remarks."

"Moon, non-native speakers might say your uncle 'has a snake's tongue'. There's nothing incorrect about the phrase, but it just isn't idiomatic. In standard usage, we say he 'speaks with a forked tongue'."

"That's interesting, Genie. My neighbour is a salesman. He once sold my father an oil, promising that it would cure all his pain. My father applied for six months, but it made no difference."

"Moon, your neighbour is a 'snake-oil salesman', and what he sold is 'snake oil'. In the 19th century, Chinese labourers brought oil from water snakes to the U.S. to soothe sore joints, and it had some medicinal effect. The meaning of the term shifted with charlatans such as Clark Stanley, the self-styled 'Rattlesnake King', whose so-called magical cures contained no real snake oil. Since then, 'snake oil' has meant a fake remedy, and a 'snake-oil salesman' refers to a persuasive charlatan selling false promises."

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Visionary director Steven Spielberg was born on this day in 1946. A quiz on the auteur

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1
Name the movie directed by Spielberg based on a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Alice Walker.

QUESTION 2
Name the movie that won Spielberg his first Academy award.

QUESTION 3
Name the movie co-written by Spielberg which was based on his group of childhood friends.

QUESTION 4
Name the movie that won Spielberg the Distinguished Public Service Award by the U. S. Navy.

QUESTION 5
Name the first feature film directed by Spielberg.

Visual question:
Who is the boy in this still from a Spielberg movie in which he debuted before going on to have an acclaimed career? Also name the movie.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1.The creators of *Stranger Things*. **Ans: The Duffer Brothers: Matt Duffer, Ross Duffer**
2. The name of the creature that abducts Will Byers in the first season. **Ans: Demogorgon**
3. The series was originally called this. **Ans: Montauk**
4. The name of the artist and her song that comes in season 4. **Ans: Kate Bush's 'Running up that Hill'**
5. The significance of these hashtags "#ImWithBarb" and "#JusticeforBarb". **Ans: Barb was a victim of the monster in season 1**
6. The food product that Eleven liked. **Ans: Eggos**
Visual. Identify this monster from season 4. **Ans: Vecna**
Early Birds: Ashutosh Gupta| Sushant Chauhan| Sanjana.V| Deepak Sudhir| Jyotsana Chaudhary

Word of the day

Trounce:
beat severely with a whip or rod; come out better in a competition, race, or conflict; censure severely or angrily

Synonyms: flog, lash, lather, slash, strap, welt, whip, beat, crush, vanquish, bawl out, berate, chew out, chide, dress down, lambaste, lecture, rebuke, remonstrate, reprimand, scold

Usage: *The children were severely trounced.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/trouncepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ʧaʊns/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

INBRIEF

Power shutdown today

Bescom has announced a scheduled power shutdown in parts of Bengaluru on Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., due to quarterly maintenance works. The maintenance will be carried out on 66 kV lines and 31.5 MV transformers at the 220/66/11 kV Koramangala Sub Station. As a result, power supply will be disrupted in Koramangala, Koramangala Village, and surrounding areas serviced by the substation.

Musical evening on Dec. 28

Creative Clan, in collaboration with Swarapaana, will present a musical evening on December 28 at Krishnadevaraya Kalamandir, located behind Chowdiah Memorial Hall in Malleswaram, Bengaluru. The event will begin at 4 p.m. with *Golden Sandalwood Hits*, offering audiences a nostalgic journey through classic Kannada film songs. This will be followed by a session of retro Bollywood disco tracks from 6.45 p.m. to 8 p.m. Entry to the programme is ticketed.

Francis Run 2025 held

The NCC unit of St. Francis College, Koramangala, organised Francis Run 2025 on December 14 to mark National Energy Conservation Day, drawing over 1,300 participants.
Lt. Col. Vijay Fedricks flagged off the event, which featured 10 km and 5 km races. Bhima Shankar (33.46) and Devangi (40.27) topped the 10 km category, while Kalyani J.R. (15.15) and Manushree (20.40) led the 5 km run.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carry explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (December 18, Thursday), the following articles are available:

- How is the Aravalli range to be protected? **newsth.live/aravalliprotectexp**
- Possible discovery of dark matter sparks debate, experts urge caution **newsth.live/darkmatterdebate**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Male-centric rules deny SC children right to education

In Karnataka, children need a caste certificate in their own name, verified using a father's transfer and caste certificates. Without these, applications and linked scholarships can be rejected

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

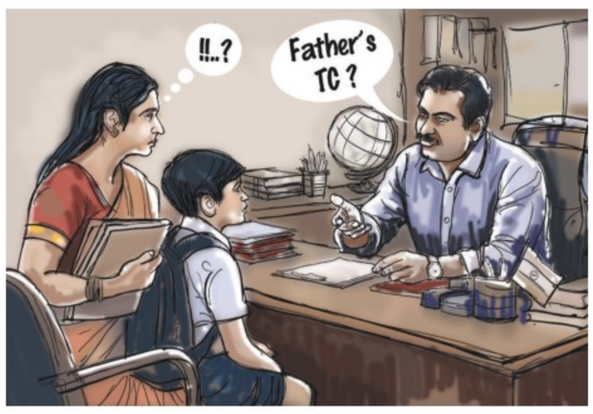


ILLUSTRATION: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS E.

If men and women are equal, why are my documents not accepted for my children's scholarship and only their father's transfer certificate (TC) is sought," questioned Saraswati M., a sanitation worker and single mother from Bhangi Colony in Bengaluru.

Her husband passed away eight years ago. "How am I supposed to get a document from someone who is no longer alive and never received formal education?"

She has a daughter in class 7 and a son in class 5. Neither she nor her late husband had formal education, but she is determined that her children should not suffer the way she has.

Saraswati's struggles are shared by families across 38 slums in seven wards in Bengaluru, home to nearly 18,000 families, most belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) communities, according to a survey conducted by the Slum Mahila Sanghatane.

Many households are headed by widows, separated or abandoned women, many of whom work as sanitation workers, domestic workers, or on seasonal contracts.

The women explained that while income certificates are routinely approved, caste certificates and scholarship applications are rejected due to rigid documentation rules. The insistence on the father's TC, they say, erases women as legal parents and denies children benefits solely because of family circumstances beyond their control.

Father's lineage

In Karnataka, children need a caste certificate in their own name, verified using a father's TC and caste certificate. Without these, applications and linked scholarships can be rejected. The caste is determined by the father's lineage.

When *The Hindu* reached out to women across slum areas like Jai Bheem Nagar, Old pension Mohalla, Cheluvadipalya, Vel Murugapuram, they said that even when they managed to submit a father's TC, applications were rejected for other reasons. For example, in a few cases, the TC showed that the father had studied in Tamil Nadu, which officials said was not acceptable, maintaining that only a TC from Karnataka will be considered valid.

Vijaya L., another woman said, "My husband works as a daily-wage coolie and studied only till class 5. He does not have a TC, while I have studied till class 10 and have my educational records. As per the rules, my documents are invalid," she said.

Moreover, many women in these settlements are themselves non-literate. In such cases, they ask, where will documents like TC come from? By making parent's education-linked documents mandatory for accessing scholarships and caste-based benefits, they argue, the system ends up punishing children for their parents' lack of schooling, and continues exclusion.

Several women pointed out that officials often claim that if the father is alive and is uneducated, verification can be done through local revenue officials, but this rarely happens in practice.

"Welfare schemes meant for SC communities never reach the families they are intended for. There is no awareness about these schemes. The problem is beyond documentation, SC communities are being further divided during the certification process, officials subject certain sub-castes to greater scrutiny than others. First, they discriminate against SC people, and then they discriminate again within the community," alleged Kamala, a resident of Jai Bheem Nagar.

Officials from the Revenue Department acknowledged the issue and said that there have been discussions within the State government on revisiting this approach in cases where women have been abandoned or are raising children on their own.

"There was recognition that children of abandoned or single women should not be denied access to certificates or welfare benefits. However, any such change would require a clear policy decision by the government, as officials fear the provision could otherwise be misused," the official said.

The official revealed that the system is heavily dependent on software-driven processes that mandate specific documents. "When the software is designed to make certain documents compulsory, it ends up troubling people on the ground. Even cases involving the death or absence of the father often get stalled because the system does not adequately accommodate such situations," the official added.

Exceptions

Such rules, however, are not universal, said representatives from Actionaid Association, pointing at examples from other States.

In Rajasthan, the government allows children of single mothers to obtain caste certificates solely on the mother's name.

Delhi has similarly issued caste certificates that are based on the mother's credentials after years of struggle by single mothers.

At the national level, the Supreme Court has affirmed that minors can receive SC certificates based on the mother's caste, even if the father belongs to a different community.

Union claims civic officials are still harassing street vendors

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Pragathipara Beedhi Vyaparigala Sangha, a labour union of street vendors, on Wednesday alleged that harassment of vendors has continued across Bengaluru despite the reorganisation of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) into five municipal corporations.

The union said provisions of the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, have not been implemented by any of the newly formed civic bodies.

Addressing a press conference, representatives of the sangha said that although a comprehensive survey of street vendors was conducted last year under the Act, identity cards and vending certificates are yet to be distributed. As per the scheme framed under the Act, these documents should have been issued within three months of the completion of the survey. While the cards have reportedly been printed, no steps have been taken to distribute them, forcing vendors to face continued harassment by police and municipal officials, the union claimed.

The union also alleged repeated eviction attempts in areas such as Vijayanagar, Jayanagar, Church Street, and Munireddypalya.

Meditation session to be held on December 21

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Heartfulness Institute and Shri Ram Chandra Mission, global organisations dedicated to human transformation through meditation, yoga, and values-based living, have invited the public to join them for World Meditation Day on Sunday, December 21, 2025, at 8 p.m. for a unified global online meditation session.

According to a press release, people from across the world will participate simultaneously, creating a shared experience of peace, compassion, and unity.

Free session

The event will be streamed live on YouTube, and the session will be conducted by Kamlesh D. Patel, also known as Daaji, global guide of Heartfulness. The session is free of cost.

The organisation offers free meditation practices across more than 160 countries.

Its headquarters, Kanha Shanti Vanam, is one of the world's largest meditation centres and also serves as a hub for training, meditation, and community development programmes.

All participants will receive a digital certificate, and commendation plaques will be presented to key partner organisations for their contributions.

Participation involves just two simple steps: People can register at https://hfn.link/meditation (only name and phone number required); and https://hfn.link/21dec to join the session.

Lokayukta raids KRIDL over fake billing between 2020 and 2022

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An FIR was taken up following a complaint after an internal assessment of bills at Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Ltd.

Lokayukta sleuths on Wednesday launched simultaneous raids at six places, including three offices of Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Ltd (KRIDL), in connection with fake billing worth ₹5 crore. The rest of the places include residences of three accused in the case.

According to well-placed sources in Lokayukta police, an FIR was taken up on December 12 following a complaint after an internal assessment of bills at KRIDL, which revealed that 11 bills worth ₹5 crore were generated for works in East Bengaluru between 2020 and 2022. "Bills have been generated by a contractor called Nagaraj under his company name and the money was siphoned off," sources said.

Shivaprakash Devaraju, Superintendent of Police (Lokayukta, Bengaluru City), told *The Hindu* that during the raid, they seized documents related to the executed works. Further investigations will follow.

According to the FIR accessed by *The Hindu*, the accused have been identified as K. Abdul Raheem, retired Assistant Executive Engineer (KRIDL); D.T. Suresh Reddy, retired Executive Engineer; T.P. Prakash, Executive Engineer (in-charge), and P.K. Bharath Kumar, Assistant Executive Engineer.

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40,434 students have still not registered for SSLC exam-1

Sources say many students who have not registered for the exam are those from unauthorised schools and schools where the recognition renewal has not been done

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Even though the last date of registration for the SSLC annual exam-1, to be held in March - April, 2026, has passed, it has been found that 40,434 class 10 students across the State have not registered.

According to the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL), a total of 8,40,196 students have registered for class 10 in government, aided and private schools for the year 2025-26. Despite multiple extensions of the deadline to register for the SSLC exam from October, the last deadline ending on December 9, only 7,99,762 students have registered.

Sources said that many students who have not registered for the SSLC exam are students of unauthorised schools and schools where recognition renewal (RR) has not been done.

A file photo of students arriving for the SSLC exam in Mangaluru.

However, they may also include school dropouts, those with low attendance, among others.

Expressing concern over such a large number of students not registering for the exam, the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) has directed officials from DSEL to visit all high schools in the State and audit registrations.

Officials have been asked to obtain and verify the list of students who have not registered for the examination with appropriate reasons and explanations and take immediate action to register eligible students. Steps will be taken to bring back even dropouts, sources said.

"Every year, around 5,000 to 15,000 students from unauthorised schools and schools that have not renewed recognition are facing problems as they cannot register for the exam. The children are suffering due to the mistakes of the school management. Children from such schools are strictly not allowed to register for the SSLC exams. These children are registered in the names of nearby government or aided schools and allowed to take the exam. But this year, the number of students who have not registered is very high. Therefore, the officials have been instructed to look into the reason why such a large number of students are not registering for the exams," a senior official of KSEAB said.

CLAT 2026: City students dominate top 100 ranks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Consortium of National Law Universities on December 16 declared the results of the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) 2026, with Bengaluru coming up as one of the top performing cities. Candidates from the city secured 15 places within the top 100 ranks of the undergraduate exam, including three female students, the highest among all cities.

Rohan Joshi, a class 12 student of Greenwood High, secured All India Rank (AIR) 3 and emerged as the State topper. Mr. Roshan studied history, political science, economics, and mathematics and aspires to join the National Law School of India University.

Other top performers from Bengaluru include Shravan S. of Delhi Public School (DPS) South, who secured AIR 20 and Pranav Kamath, who ranked 65 at all India level.

Don't chop off trees at Cantonment Railway Colony without permission: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday directed the Ministry of Railways not to cut trees without permission at Cantonment Railway Colony, situated opposite the Cantonment Railway Station in Bengaluru, for the proposed constructions.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha passed the interim order on a PIL petition filed by former MLA A.T. Ramaswamy and three others.

The petitioner had sought a direction from the court to quash a December 16, 2025, notification issued by the State government withdrawing its earlier notification of September 10, 2025, in which an 8.61-acre green area with 371 trees adjacent to the station was declared as a biodiversity heritage site under Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

The Cantonment Railway Colony was declared a heritage site three months ago, but the State government revoked that notification.
ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Without consent

During the hearing, Additional Solicitor-General (ASG) of India K. Arvind Kamath told the Bench that the State government rightly withdrew the notification on declaration of the biodiversity park as it was issued without the consent of the Central government.

On the apprehension of the petitioners that the trees would be cut any time, the ASG said that the petition was premature as Railways had only filed an application seeking permission for cutting certain trees. Recording the submissions made by the ASG, the Bench adjourned further hearing till February 13, 2026.

Shilpa Shetty's pub raided

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Income Tax Department (IT) on Wednesday conducted a raid at Bastian Garden City, a pub located in the heart of the city and co-owned by Bollywood actor Shilpa Shetty, according to well-placed sources.

IT officials arrived at the pub on St. Mark's Road on Wednesday morning and carried out checks until the evening. Sources said the IT team was not from Bengaluru.

The pub was recently booked by the Bengaluru police for operating beyond permitted hours. The police registered a *suo motu* case after reviewing a video in which two patrons of the pub were involved in a fight.

UG medical: 19 seats allotted in second stray vacancy round

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the second stray vacancy round of seat allotment held on Wednesday for admission to undergraduate medical courses, 19 out of the total 26 seats have been allotted, said Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) Executive Director H. Prasanna.

Candidates who wished to participate in the allotment of the remaining 26 seats after the stray vacancy round were instructed to report to the KEA office with a demand draft (DD) for the course fee.

Eligible candidates who appeared were given an opportunity to enter their preferences/options.

Accordingly, the results were published, in which 17 candidates secured admission to MVJ Medical College, and two candidates were admitted to MR Medical College, Kalaburagi, he said.

Spanish Ambassador to India delivers address

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Juan Antonio March Pujol, Ambassador of Spain to India, delivered an address on the intersection of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and humanity at Presidency University, Bengaluru, on Tuesday. The occasion also marked the launch of his book, *The Great Reset: CTRL+ALT+HUMAN*.

He underscored AI's transformative influence on communication, education, governance, and global cooperation.

While acknowledging AI's potential to enhance efficiency, he emphasised that human creativity, ethics, and responsibility must remain at the core of decision-making. He said that technology should unite societies and advance human progress rather than create divisions.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
O/o THE CHIEF ENGINEER AND BASIN MANAGER, MAHANADI BASIN, AT-BURLA, DISTRICT-SAMBALPUR, PIN-768017
E-mail Id - cebmumbburla@gmail.com

'e' Procurement Notice No-CE& BM-MB-35/2025-2026 (Online)
BID IDENTIFICATION NO- CE & BM-MB-35/2025-2026 (Online)

1.	Name of the work	:	Renovation of Canal System of Hirakud Dam Project (Upper Huma Canal Section, Sambalpur Irrigation Division, Sambalpur)
2.	No of works	:	One (01) number
3.	Class of Contractor	:	"Special Class" and "Super Class"
4.	Bid Identification No	:	CE&BM-MB-35/2025-2026 (Online)
5.	Estimated Cost	:	Rs.30.32 Crores
6.	Period of Completion	:	24 (Twenty-Four) Calendar Months
7.	Date and time of availability of Bid Documents in the portal	:	Dated- 15.12.2025 at 11.30 AM to Dated- 04.01.2026 up to 5.00 PM
8.	Last date / time for receipt of Bids in the portal	:	Dated- 04.01.2026 up to 5.00 PM
9.	Date of opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I).	:	Dated 05.01.2026 at 11.30 AM, O/o Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi Basin, Burla.
10.	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	:	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi Basin, Burla, Dist-Sambalpur,Odisha,768017; Email Id: cebmumbburla@gmail.com

1. Any addendum/corrigendum/ cancellation/ erratum of tender can also be seen in the said Website.
2. Further details can be seen from Government Website http://tendersodisha.gov.in.

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi Basin, Burla
A-: OIPR-32508/11/0056/2526

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
M. E. D. C. No. M1 / 2785 / 2025
e-tender Notice
e - Tender is invited for the following works by Superintending Engineer (Mech), as per Tender Condition
Purchase of 2 numbers of Vehicle-Mounted High Capacity Suction Cum Jetting Machines for the use of Central Region (As per Tender Condition)
Work value: Rs.4,00,00,000/- | **EMD Amount: Rs.4,00,000/-**
Last Date and time for bid Submission: **05.01.2026, 3.00** PM
Tender Opening Date and Time: **06.01.2026, 3.30** PM
For further details please visit: **https://tntenders.gov.in.**
DIPR / 6701 / Tender / 2025 — **Superintending Engineer (Mech)**

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in
No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-66/2992/2025-26 Date: 16.12.2025
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work of:
Name of the Work : Strengthening of Roads and Providing & Laying of HDPE Water Supply Pipelines in Hebbal Industrial Area, Mysuru Taluk & District.
The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **20.01.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/-
DIPR/CP/4494/Zen/2025-26 — Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
O/o Executive Engineer, PWD, Udupi Division, Udupi - 576101.
C.No. : (0820) 2531802
No.PWD:UDN:NIT-41:2025-26:AE-2 Dated: 17.12.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
It is hereby notified for the information of intending registered contractor of Class-III in Karnataka PWD, through e-portal "kppp.karnataka.gov.in" as per Karnataka transparency in public procurement act - 2023, as per specified terms & condition notified there in. The Last date for submission of tender on **01.01.2026** through E-procurement portal "kppp.karnataka.gov.in" for **Indent No. 28606** under **3054-MDR Maintainance** head, work costing **Rs. 81.22 (excluding GST)**. For more information contact office during office hours.
Sd/-, Executive Engineer, Public Works Dept., Udupi Division, Udupi.

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଚାରଣ ନିଗମ ଲିଃ
(ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାରଙ ଏକ ଉପକ୍ରମ)
ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: OPTCL Tech Tower, Janpath, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-Tender No.	Tender Description:	Estimated Cost
CPC-48/2025-26	For & on behalf of Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL), Chief General Manager, CPC (Central Procurement Cell) invites tendres from reputed manufacturers under two-part bidding system for Procurement of 6 Nos. 100MVA, 220/33kV Power Transformer.	Rs. 81,25,49,579.80/-

Last Date & Time of Submission of Bid: 16.01.2026 upto 15:00 Hrs.
Complete set of bidding documents are available at **www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL** and **www.optcl.co.in**.
CAD-2725 OIPR-04011/11/0244/2526 /optcl.odisha /optcl_odisha HIPR-55/2025-26

PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION, KOPPAL
Office of the Executive Engineer, Jawahar Road, Koppal - 583 231,
E-mail : eepredkpl@gmail.com
No. : E.E./P.R.E.D./DN/KPL/DB/TENDER/2025-26/2360 Date : 16-12-2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
On behalf of The Governor of Karnataka, **Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Koppal,** invites item rates tender through KPPP One / Two Cover Systems, from eligible PWD and PRE Department registered contractors through **Standard Bid Document KW - 1, 2, 3 & 4, under Head of Account 2023-24/2024-25 SCP-TSP & 2024-25 5054-Flood & Other Heads in Different Talukas of Koppal District.** This scheme is fully funded by the Government of Karnataka. For more information contact above the Office. Eligible contractors Participate Online by Entering into KPPP Portal **http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Portal.
1) Construction of CC Road & Drain in SC Colony in Balutagi in Yelburga Taluk. APT - Rs. 84.12 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 1,68,250.00, IND No : 18594/Call-3.
Tender Processing Fees : As per E-Procurement, Download of Schedule-B in E-proc Portal : From 18-12-2025 Time after 10.00 a.m. upto 30-12-2025 Time 16.00 Hours. Tender Receipt Last Date From : 18-12-2025 Time 11.00 a.m. upto 30-12-2025 Time 16.30 Hours. Technical Bid Open Date and Time (Both Technical & Financial Bids are Opened as same Date for KW 1 & KW 2, KW-3 Works : 31-12-2025 in Office hours. Financial Bid Open Date and Time : For KW 4 After getting Technical Approval from Competent Authority, Bid will be Opened.
General Instructions : 1) Contractors participate in all Tenders Online only. 2) Pre-qualification Documents should be Uploaded by Scanning all Certificates & Other Concerned Documents Online only. 3) Pre-requisite EMD have to be Pay Online as per mentioned in E-proc Portal.
For more information, contractors need to consult to below Signed Official Officer, Contractors may get the information by going through. **http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal. This notified works can be downloaded in **http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal.
Note : The undersigned reserves the right to accept any or reject any of the tenders at any stage without assigning the reasons.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/Koppal/543/Manipal/2025-26 — P.R.E. Division, Koppal.

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
INVITATION OF BIDS – ITEM WAR (Two Cover System) Short Term e Submission

IFB No.	23 /F.O & M of CWSS 2026-29/DO-2 /CE/VLR/2025/ /Dt.17.12.2025
Eligibility	Registered Class I Contractors (Civil)
Tender Invitee	Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, No.8, 1st East Main Rd, Gandhi Nagar, Vellore -06
Downloading Period	**26.12.2025 to 09.01.2026 up to 15.00 Hours**
EMD Payable	Online Mode or e-BG through e-Tendering Website **https://tntenders.gov.in**
Pre Bid meeting	**05.01.2026 at 11.00 AM** at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid Submission	**09.01.2026 up to 15.00** Hours duly Digitally signed through e-Tendering Website **https://tntenders.gov.in**
Bid opening	**12.01.2026 at 15.30** Hours through e-Tender Portal

IFB No.	Name of work	Approximate value (incl. GST 18%) (Rs. in crore)	Bid security (Rs. in lakh)
Operation and maintenance of the following CWSS including repair, rectification works and supply of Chemicals for three years period from 01.04.2026 to 31.03.2029			
1	CWSS in 3 Districts Chengalpet-13 Nos, Kancheepuram-8 Nos & Thiruvallur-11 Nos. Total- 32 Nos. **(Pkg-43)**	21.35	16.50
2	CWSS in 2 Districts Krishnagiri -23 Nos & Dharmapuri -6 Nos. Total-29 Nos **(Pkg-44)**	24.67	19.00
3	Hogenakkal CWSS in Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts (Pkg I, II & III) **(Pkg-45)**	61.30	46.50
4	Hogenakkal CWSS in Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts (Pkg IV and V) **(Pkg-46)**	47.26	36.00

DIPR/ 6709 /TENDER/2025
SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS — Chief Engineer (i/c), TWAD Board, Vellore.

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
INVITATION OF BIDS – ITEM WAR (Two Cover System) Short Term e Submission

IFB No.	22 /F.O & M of CWSS 2026-29/DO-2 /CE/VLR/2025/ /Dt.17.12.2025
Eligibility	Registered Class I Contractors (Civil)
Tender Invitee	Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, No.8, 1st East Main Rd, Gandhi Nagar, Vellore -06
Downloading Period	**26.12.2025 to 09.01.2026 up to 15.00 Hours**
EMD Payable	Online Mode or e-BG through e-Tendering Website **https://tntenders.gov.in**
Pre Bid meeting	**05.01.2026 at 11.00 AM** at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid Submission	**09.01.2026 up to 15.00** Hours duly Digitally signed through e-Tendering Website **https://tntenders.gov.in**
Bid opening	**12.01.2026 at 15.30** Hours through e-Tender Portal

IFB No.	Name of work	Approximate value (incl. GST 18%) (Rs. in crore)	Bid security (Rs. in lakh)
Operation and maintenance of the following CWSS including repair, rectification works and supply of Chemicals for three years period from 01.04.2026 to 31.03.2029			
1	CWSS in 3 Districts Villupuram-3 Nos, Cuddalore -17 Nos & Kallakurichi -4 Nos Total- 24 Nos.**(Pkg-39)**	41.72	32.00
2	CWSS in Thiruvannamalai District 27 Nos.**(Pkg-40)**	32.25	25.00
3	CWSS to Vellore Corporation, 11 Municipalities, 5 town Panchayats and 944 wayside habitations in vellore district-1 No.**(Pkg-41)**	81.40	62.00
4	CWSS in 3 Districts, Vellore- 4 Nos & Ranipet -10 Nos. Thirupathur-1 No Total - 15 Nos.**(Pkg-42)**	23.79	18.50

DIPR/ 6708 /TENDER/2025
SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS — Chief Engineer (i/c), TWAD Board, Vellore.

RTC unions to begin awareness drive on 'surprise strike' after talks with State government fail

Pamphlets detailing employee grievances will be distributed across bus depots, and workers will be briefed about the course of action proposed by the unions

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After a series of inconclusive meetings with the State government, the Joint Action Committee (JAC) of transport corporation employees is likely to start an awareness campaign across road transport corporation (RTC) depots, signalling the possibility of a strike that could be launched without prior notice.

"We will not announce when or how the strike will take place. All unions will unite and the strike will be declared suddenly," Jagadish, a member of the JAC, said.

Union leaders said the JAC was preparing the ground for a "surprise strike" as a pressure tactic, following what they described as repeated failures by the government to address long-pending demands. Pamphlets detailing employee grievances will be distributed across depots, and workers will be briefed about the course of action proposed by the unions.

The primary demands of the Joint Action Committee of transport corporation employees include the release of pending arrears and the implementation of an overdue pay revision. FILE PHOTO

The move comes days after a meeting on Saturday between Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy and JAC representatives, convened on the directions of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, ended without a resolution. The talks were aimed at addressing key demands, including the release of arrears and a comprehensive pay revision for employees of State-run transport corporations.

The Saturday meeting followed an earlier round of discussions on November 26 involving the Chief Minister, the Transport Minister, and union representatives, during which the unions had reiterated their demands. As directed by the Chief Minister, Mr. Reddy had convened the latest meeting to review the issues raised by RTC employees.

However, union leaders said the repeated rounds of talks had yielded no concrete outcome. Mr. Jagadish said that meetings with the Chief Minister and the Transport Minister had been held more than four times without any meaningful progress. "These meetings have become a waste of time. Nothing useful is happening," he said.

The JAC's primary demands include the immediate release of pending arrears and the implementation of a long-overdue pay revision. According to the unions, unpaid dues across the four RTCs have mounted to ₹8,010 crore.

Other demands include higher staff allowances, better medical facilities for employees and the regularisation of drivers and technical staff currently working on a contract basis. The unions have also insisted that electric buses should be operated only by permanent drivers, arguing that deploying contract staff could compromise safety and operational efficiency.

Earlier, Mr. Reddy had said that, with the Assembly session under way, he would brief the Chief Minister on the discussions with union leaders during the session, after which a decision could be taken.

State writes to Union govt. on GCC operators running electric buses

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The State government has raised concerns with the Union government regarding the performance of GCC (Gross Cost Contract) operators who are entrusted with the deployment and operation of electric buses in Bengaluru.

Replying to member Ivan D'souza in the Legislative Council on Wednesday, Minister for Transport and Muzrai Ramalinga Reddy said that he had already written to Union Minister for Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy as the poor performance of the electric buses would not only cause hardships to the passengers, but also bring bad name to both the governments and the BMTC.

In his letter to Mr. Kumaraswmay, Mr. Reddy has pointed out that the performance of operators under GCC, predominantly OEMs such as NTPC Vidyut Vyapra Nigam, Tata Motors Limited, Switch Mobility and their associated operating entity, OHM Global Mobility, had fallen significantly short of the standards expected from industry leaders of their stature.

According to Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, the poor performance of the electric buses will not only cause hardships to the passengers, but also bring bad name to both the governments and the BMTC. FILE PHOTO

"The operators have failed to address issues such as lack of structural and rigorous driver training, poor maintenance, cancellations, breakdowns, batter issues and insufficient driver preparedness which led to rise in road accidents and repeated flash strikes. This apart, compared to the performance of BMTC's conventional diesel fleet, the disparity in operational reliability under the GCC electric bus contracts is both stark and deeply concerning. The electric buses operated by the GCC operators are witnessing nearly 3 times the number of cancellations compared with the diesel counterparts," Mr. Reddy has said in the letter.

Higher accident rate

BMTC presently operates 65,000 trips each day with 7,067 buses (5,423 powered by diesel and 1,644 representing the electric fleet). However despite operating on a vast scale, the diesel buses had a record of having accidents of just 0.05 per lakh km of operation, while the electric buses exhibit a higher accident rate of 0.07 per lakh km, Mr. Reddy said in the letter.

The Minister urged the Union Minister for early intervention to ensure regular performance review of GCC operators, incorporate binding clauses in future tender documents mandating comprehensive and certified driver training protocols and institute a monitoring mechanism undertaken by transport utilities and the ministry.

'Relax scrap policy for transport vehicles'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Minister for Transport and Muzrai Ramalinga Reddy informed the Legislative Council on Wednesday that Karnataka intends to request the Central government to relax the scrap policy for the public transport vehicles that are in good condition.

Replying to member Govind Raju's query on age-barred public transport vehicles in the State, Mr. Reddy said they were planning to write to the Centre on the issue, seeking relaxation for public transport vehicles that had crossed 15 years but were in good condition to operate. Such an exemption had already been given in Tamil Nadu, he said. On scrapping other government vehicles that were over 15 years old, Mr. Reddy said he would write to the departments and seize such vehicles.

BMTC shifts bus stops closer to Yellow Line metro stations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After repeated complaints by commuters that bus stops are not near metro stations on the newly operational Yellow Line, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL), in coordination with the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), has finally shifted and added several bus stops closer to metro stations.

Metro services on the Rashtreeya Vidyalaya Road-Delta Electronics Bommasandra corridor began on August 11, 2025. Following joint inspections by BMRCL and BMTC, bus stops have been relocated or newly provided to ensure smoother interchange between buses and metro services, improving commuter convenience, according to BMRCL officials.

New BMTC bus stops have been established near metro stations at Biocon Hebbagodi, Beratena Agrahara, Singasandra, Hongasandra, Central Silk Board, and R.V. Road. In addition, existing bus stops at Electronics City, Hosa Road, and Ragigudda have been shifted closer to the respective metro stations.

Officials said that at Jayadeva, BTM Layout, Bommanahalli, Kudlu Gate, and Infosys Foundation Konappana Agrahara, bus stops are already available within 100 metres of metro stations, ensuring easy access. "However, relocation of bus stops at Huskur Road and Delta Electronics Bommasandra could not be taken up due to space issues," official added.

HC relief for road transport corporation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

FROM THE COURT

Taking note that State public transport corporations are compelled to borrow around ₹2,000 crore just to meet their salary obligations, the High Court of Karnataka has ordered North West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) to pay the delayed leave encashment amount to retired employees at a lower interest.

The court noted that public transport corporations suffered financial losses owing to the pandemic, and this burden was compounded owing to strike by employees and the State government's policy decision of giving free bus travel for women.

Stating that a balance must be stuck between the right of employees to be compensated for delay and the financial realities confronting public transport corporations sustained by the public funds, Justice M. Nagaprasanna directed the NWKRTC to pay interest at 6% on leave encashment for the delayed period instead of 9 to 10% as demanded by retired employees.

The NWKRTC had not only delayed by 10 to 25 months after retirement in paying the leave encashment amount to the petitioners, Yallappa and others, who retired post the pandemic, but had also failed to pay interest to them on the amount for the delayed period as per norms. During the hearing, the NWKRTC said that it is willing to pay interest at 6% while pointing out that 5.58% was the rate of interest prevailing in the banks at the relevant period in which the petitioners had retired from service.

While directing the NWKRTC to pay the interest to the petitioners within 12 weeks, the court said that it has to pay interest at 9% if the interest amount is not paid within 12 weeks.

Over 62.40L children to be covered under Pulse Polio campaign on December 21

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI/BENGALURU

Over 62.4 lakh children in the 0-5 age group will be covered under the Pulse Polio immunisation campaign to be held across Karnataka on December 21, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said on Wednesday.

Addressing a press conference at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi, the Minister said the National Immunisation Day (Pulse Polio) is being observed as a precautionary measure to sustain India's polio-free status, even as cases continue to be reported from neighbouring countries. In 2025, Pakistan reported 51 and Afghanistan 10 cases of wild polio virus, highlighting the risk of importation.

The campaign will be conducted in one round using the bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV). Vaccination will be carried out at booths on December 21, followed by door-to-door visits over the next two to three days to ensure that no child in the 0-5 age group is left out.

Vaccination will be carried out at booths on December 21, followed by door-to-door visits over the next two to three days.

Mr. Rao emphasised that all children below five must be given two drops, even if they have received polio drops earlier. Under the routine immunisation programme, every child is entitled to five doses of oral polio vaccine and three doses of inactivated polio vaccine (IPV), he said.

Special focus will be placed on high-risk and hard-to-reach areas, including villages, hilly and forest regions, brick kilns, migrant settlements, urban slums, farmhouses, and transit points such as railway stations, metro stations, airports, and seaports.

For the campaign, the Health Department has set up 33,258 booths, with the support of 1,030 mobile teams and 2,096 transit teams. As many as 1,13,115 vaccinators and 7,322 supervisors have been deployed. The programme is being implemented in coordination with government departments and supported by organisations such as the WHO, UNICEF, Rotary International, among others.

When 'love' hurts: Inspector files plaint against woman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Fed up with repeated love proposals from a woman, the Ramamurthy Nagar police inspector has registered a complaint against her at the same station.

According to the FIR, Inspector Sathish G.J. stated that the accused, Sanjana alias Vanaja, repeatedly contacted him on his official number through WhatsApp calls, phone calls, and messages between October 30 and December 12. She allegedly kept proposing to him and declaring her love.

"When I did not respond, she claimed to be a Congress worker and attempted to entice me by saying she could use her influence with the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, and Home Minister. She even sent photographs with these leaders, as well as with Lakshmi Hebbalkar and Motamma," the officer noted in the complaint.

Following this, the inspector said he received calls from the offices of the Home Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister asking why he was not taking complaints from a woman named Sanjana. He informed them that she had not filed any complaint.

On November 11, the woman allegedly went to the police station and handed over a packet to the officer. On checking, it was found to contain several tablets usually prescribed for anxiety and two letters. According to the FIR, in one of the letters, the woman threatened to take her own life as he had not accepted her love and warned that she would blame him for her death. She professed her love in another letter and claimed to have written it in her blood.

After this incident, the inspector took up a complaint and deputed his officers to investigate the matter and educate the woman. However, she allegedly did not cooperate with the inquiry. Further investigation revealed that she had engaged in similar acts with other police officers in the past as well.

Subsequently, on December 12, she allegedly went to the police station, created a ruckus, and threatened the inspector. Fed up with her, the officer filed a complaint.

An FIR has been registered at the Ramamurthy Nagar police station under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, dealing with assault or use of criminal force to deter a public servant from discharging his duty, criminal intimidation, and obstruction of a public servant in the discharge of public functions.

11 Bills passed in Council

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Karnataka Legislative Council on Wednesday passed 11 Bills that were earlier passed by the Karnataka Legislative Assembly.

They were Chandraguthi Shree RenukambaKshetra Development Authority Bill, 2025; The Karnataka Rent (Amendment) Bill 2025; Shree Chamundeshwari Kshetra Development Authority (Amendment) Bill 2025; the Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Bill 2025; Karnataka Cine and Cultural Activists (Welfare) (Amendment) Bill 2025; Malnad Area Development Board (Amendment) Bill 2025; Karnataka Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill 2025; Bayaluseeme Development Board (Amendment) Bill 2025; Sri Malai Mahadeswaraswamy Kshethra Development Authority (Amendment) 2025: Karnataka Labour Welfare Fund (Amendment) 2025, and the Karnataka State Universities (Amendment) Bill 2025.

80% pending cases before AC courts disposed of: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda informed the Legislative Council on Wednesday that 80% of the cases pending before AC (Assistant Commissioner) courts in the State had been disposed of in the last two-and-a-half years and steps had been taken to dispose of the remaining.

Replying to the question by member Ramoji Gowda in the Legislative Council on Wednesday, he said that in order to address the issue of pending cases, the government had appointed 21 Special Assistant Commissioners.

"When this government came to power, there were 37,787 cases that were pending for over five years and 59,339 cases that were pending for more than one year. Following the measures taken by the department, the number of cases with a history of more than five years has been reduced to 3,372, and those pending for over one year have decreased to 10,889 cases. There were 10,774 cases before tahsildar courts and now it has been reduced to 506", he said.

Mr. Krishna Byre Gowda said that although the rules state that AC courts should not keep cases pending for over six months, their number of pending cases, including those over 10-12 years, is due to those concerned not bothering to look into the issue.

Laxmi Hebbalkar apologises for 'wrong' info on Gruha Lakshmi scheme payment

This is after the Opposition staged a protest in the House; they urged her to reveal where the money had gone pointing out that the two missed installments amounted to nearly ₹5,000 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Minister has admitted that she had come to know that money had not been paid for the two months when she checked with officials. FILE PHOTO

Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar on Wednesday apologised in the Legislative Assembly for giving wrong information to the House on payment of Gruha Laksmi scheme installments, after the BJP members staged a protest demanding an apology.

A few days ago, the Minister, in her reply to BJP member Mahesh Tenginakayi, had claimed that the Government of Karnataka had cleared all the pending installment towards Gruha Lakshmi scheme till August 2025. Though the Opposition members had complained that the installments for February and March had not been paid, she had maintained that there were no pending installments.

Subsequently, when it had turned out that the installments for these two months had not been paid, the Opposition members had been urging Speaker U. T. Khader to ask the Minister to clarify.

Worth ₹5,000 crore

On Wednesday, the Opposition members insisted that the Minister should clarify to the House immediately and also tender an apology to 1.26 crore beneficiaries. They accused the Minister of misleading the House. Pointing out that the two installments amounted to nearly ₹5,000 crore, they urged her to let the House know where did the money go. They commenced a dharna in the well of the House, forcing the Speaker to adjourn the House for a short while.

Ms. Hebbalkar, who came to the House when it re-assembled, admitted that she had come to know that money had not been paid for the two months when she checked with officials. "I did not have any intention of either misleading the House or furnishing false information. I will express regret if anyone is hurt by my reply," she said. "Also, I will check with the Finance Department about the funds that were not paid to the beneficiaries for the months of February and March". So far, 23 installments amounting to ₹46,000 crore had been paid through DBT under the scheme and payment had been made till August, she said.

However, the Opposition members refused to relent and demanded an apology from her. Finally, the Minister tendered an apology, but launched a counter-attack by accusing the Opposition of targeting her because she was a woman. This angered the Opposition members, who asked her to desist from playing the victim card.

BJP member V. Sunil Kumar ridiculed that the government had skipped two installments of Gruha Lakshmi scheme as it was financially bankrupt.

'Is Centre bankrupt?'

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar pointed out that the Centre was yet to honour its commitment of providing ₹5,300 crore to Karnataka for the Upper Bhadra Project and thousands of crores of rupees under MGNREGA and Jal Jeevan mission.

"Can we say that the Centre has not transferred this amount to Karnataka because it is financially bankrupt?" he shot back. Whatever the funds are released by the Finance Department would be transferred to beneficiaries, he said.

Mr. Shivakumar launched a counter-attack at the BJP by maintaining that the BJP was winning various State Assembly elections by copying the guarantee schemes of the Congress government.

RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge too joined the attack by accusing the BJP of even indulging in vote chori to win polls. This triggered a heated exchange of words between the ruling and the Opposition members.

Finally, the Opposition members staged a walkout expressing dissatisfaction over the Minister not announcing when the installments of February and March would be paid.

Bill on sub-classification of SCs for reservation tabled in Assembly

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-classification) Bill, 2025, that seeks to provide legality to the government orders related to sub-classification of the 101 Scheduled Castes with a reservation share of 17% was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday.

The one-man commission led by retired Justice H.N. Nagamohan Das had submitted its report to the government on August 4 this year with specific recommendations on sub-classification of Scheduled Castes among various sub-groups of SCs.

The government approved the recommendations of the commission with some modifications to implement the sub-classification among the SCs for ensuring a fair and equitable distribution of reservation benefits, and accordingly sub-categorised 101 Scheduled Castes with a share of 17% of reservation.

As per the Bill, Category-A, which has 16 castes, and Category-B, with 19 castes, will get reservation of 6% each, while Category-C, comprising 63 castes, will get reservation of 5%.

Similarly, the Bill has three non-categorised Scheduled Castes - Adi Andhra, Adi Dravida and Adi Karnataka - that are eligible to opt for reservation under Category-A or Category-B, based on caste certificates.

The Karnataka State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Amendment) Bill, 2025, too was tabled in the Assembly on Wednesday.

The Bill seeks to nominate a person belonging to the ST and a woman as the members of the Karnataka State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. It also seeks to empower the Karnataka State Commission for the SC and ST to make necessary modifications in the reservation percentage of sub-classification to the members of SCs on the receipt of new data or information from the government.

Other Bills

The Assembly also adopted six Bills, including the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2025, and Drugs and Cosmetics (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2025.

Which *Indra* is controlling transfer racket in Police Dept.?, asks BJP

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Opposition BJP on Wednesday alleged that rampant corruption in getting postings was the main reason for the police personnel themselves involving in serious crimes of late, causing mistrust about the police force and wondered which *Indra* (king of gods) was controlling the racket.

Participating in a debate in the Legislative Assembly on the alleged deterioration of law and order situation in the State, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok squarely blamed collusion of police with criminals as the main reason for it.

He said the police personnel themselves were backing the illegal network of drug peddlers in Bengaluru, especially around schools and colleges.

Whatever drug seizure was happening in Bengaluru was only about 5% of the total drug volume that was coming to the State, he alleged.

Mr. Ashok took note of the police involving in various crimes and wondered how a terror-suspect in the central prison in Parappana Agrahara could use mobile phones.

About 130 police personnel in 11 sub-divisions of Bengaluru had been suspended in the last 11 months alone for involvement in crimes, he said.

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok speaking in the Legislative Assembly at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha, in Belagavi on Wednesday.

BJP Member V. Sunil Kumar alleged that generally a police inspector had to pay ₹20 lakh to ₹25 lakh as bribe for getting good posting, while the ACP had to pay around ₹75 lakh and the Superintendent of Police would have to pay ₹2 crore to ₹3 crore for a good posting.

Maintaining that Home Minister G. Parameshwara was not the kind of person who would indulge in corruption, he asked, "Then which Indra (king of gods) is running such a transfer racket in the Police Department?"

He said the State had witnessed 10,510 rape cases in the last two-and-half years while 2,430 boys and 6,186 girls were missing in the same period.

CAG highlights inadequate preparedness in State's disaster management

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has highlighted the vulnerabilities, inadequate preparedness in disaster management system of Karnataka, amid increasing natural disasters.

Analysing the efforts from 2017-18 to 2022-23 in managing calamities and risk reduction, the report pointed out that although Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) was established in 2008, the State Disaster Management Policy was published after 12 years, only in 2020. It said that the State Emergency Operation Centre was under-equipped in terms of human resources and infrastructure, which affected its functioning. The Disaster Response Force Units had huge vacancies – ranging from 67% to 96% – of the sanctioned strength resulting in the units facing difficulties in carrying out duties and rescue operations.

Defective TWSs

KSNMDC had installed Telemetric Rain Guages (TRGs) and Telemetric Weather Stations (TWSs) in a phased manner between 2009 and 2015, but as of December 2023, it was found that 43% of TRGs and 52% of TWSs were defective, the report said.

It has also pointed out that the funds released by the State were not calamity-specific, complicating monitoring of NDRF/SDRF grants. The CAG has found misappropriation of ₹18.59 lakh at Chintamani in Chikkaballapura district, unutilised funds of ₹7.69 crore in Fire Emergency Department, and taluks of Haveri district spending ₹1.81 crore out of SDRF for reasons not related to natural calamities/disasters.

The CAG has pointed out that although the State Action Plan for Flood Risk was established in 2021, it lacked preparation for flood management in critical sectors. It found that 49 out of the 100 Water Level Sensors installed in Bengaluru remained non-functional as on December 2023. The State has not established a legal framework for flood infrastructure.

On the compensation front also, CAG has found discrepancies. It has said that compensation for damages was inconsistent and the verification processes were inadequate. It also found that there were 22,496 cases of house damage reconstruction pending despite ₹213.94 crore disbursed.

The CAG has recommended revamping Emergency Operation Centre and enhancing training for officials, among other things.

Funds meant for welfare of mining areas spent violating guidelines: CAG report

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has taken note of irregular expenditure of funds under the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY), violating the guidelines.

The CAG has audited the money spent towards the welfare of areas affected by the mining, utilising funds collected by the District Mineral Foundation Trusts (DMFTs), between 2015 and 2023.

The trusts collected ₹4,003.51 crore during the period and incurred an expenditure of ₹1,826.46 crore.

The CAG report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in Belagavi on Wednesday.

The CAG, in its findings, noted that the Deputy Commissioner of Ballari utilised ₹68 lakh to purchase 12 vehicles, utilising the DMFT fund in 2021, violating the guidelines. Similarly, the report noted that ₹1.26 crore was spent towards the salary of Home Guards and the improvement of roads in the Deputy Commissioner's office premises in Ballari between 2020 and 2023.

When the CAG sought reply for the expenditure, in violation of the guidelines, the State government maintained that it was spent as per the approval of the Finance Department. However, the CAG reported that the government's response was not acceptable.

"The reply was not acceptable as the Finance Department has no powers to sanction expenditure as per the DMFT rules," the report stated.

'Rights of MLAs denied in revised protocol'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Members of the BJP, on Wednesday, took serious exception to the recent changes in the State protocol that they allege take away the privileges of the MLAs.

Suresh Gowda of the BJP raised the issue during Zero Hour in the Legislative Assembly and alleged that the rights of the legislators had been taken away. "As per the revised protocol, the District Minister will preside over the programmes attended by Chief Minister and DCM. Earlier, MLAs of the respective Assembly constituency used to preside over the programmes," he said. Further, he pointed out that the revised protocol undermined the position of the Speaker of the House as well. "The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly has been placed below the Chairman of the Legislative Council and the High Court judges in the order of importance," he said.

Leader of Opposition R. Ashok argued that the MLAs had been reduced to mere 'guests'. "MLAs are the true representatives of the constituencies. The District Ministers are guests who can be removed anytime at the will of the Chief Minister," he stated.

Minister for Law H.K. Patil, responding to the debate, said the issue raised by the MLAs was serious and he would discuss it with the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary and make a statement on the issue in the House on Thursday, he said.

Congress protests renaming MGNREGA, 'targeting' of leaders in *National Herald* case

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Congress legislators on Wednesday staged a protest in Belagavi alleging that the Union government had targeted its leaders in the *National Herald* case, and to oppose the Union Government's move to rename Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme as Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Graman) - VB-G Ram G.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D. K. Shivakumar, along with Congress leaders, protesting against the Central Government in front of the Gandhi statue at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi on Wednesday. P.K. BADIGER

Before commencing business for the day during the Winter session of the Legislature here, the legislators assembled in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue on the Suvarna Soudha premises. They raised slogans against the BJP, Centre, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that the BJP government at the Centre is engaged in the politics of hatred. "The BJP is engaged in vindictive politics to hide its mistakes. During Mr. Modi's rule, the debt has increased. Since Independence, the country has had total debt of ₹53 lakh crore. However, during Mr. Modi's rule, the total debt has increased to ₹148 lakh crore," he said.

The Prime Minister failed to fulfil his promise of creating two crore jobs, he added.

On the *National Herald* issue, the Chief Minister said the Congress launched the newspaper in 1937 during the freedom movement. "It is the property of the Congress party. The BJP is targeting Congress by filing false cases on its leaders," he alleged.

The protesters stated that the Delhi High Court's rejection of the plea by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) in the *National Herald* case is a loss of face for the BJP at the Centre

The leaders also took objection to the Centre's move to rename Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme as VB-G Ram G. "What was wrong with Mahatma Gandhi's name? It is clear that the BJP opposes Mahatma Gandhi," one leader said.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar alleged that the Union government had been targeting Congress leaders using agencies. Referring to the PMLA case against him, Mr. Shivakumar said he was sent to jail.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, Minister for Industries M.B. Patil, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, and Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre also were present.

Later in the day, Congress member A.S. Ponnanna's plea for a debate in the House on central agencies allegedly targeting Congress leaders triggered a heated debate between members of the treasury benches and the Opposition, forcing Speaker U.T. Khader to adjourn the proceedings. Eventually Speaker gave a ruling rejecting the plea to debate the issue in the House.

Buddhist monks to be given monthly honorarium

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Karnataka government would soon take steps to provide a monthly honorarium to Buddhist monks serving in monasteries across the State, announced Transport and Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy.

Replying to a question by member K. Shivakumar in the Legislative Council on behalf of Waqf and Minority Welfare Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan on Wednesday, Mr. Reddy said that Minority Welfare Department is currently providing monthly honorarium to archakas serving in registered Jain basadis and to pesh imams and muezzins serving in Waqf-registered mosques in the State. The government would extend the benefit to Buddhist monks at the earliest, he said. Raising the issue, Mr. Shivakumar pointed out that in the 80 Buddhist monasteries in Karnataka, over 200 monks were rendering services and the maintenance of these monasteries had become difficult due to the absence of any government assistance.

He also pointed out that no previous government had provided financial support.

GST rate rationalisation to further hit revenues

The State estimates the revenue shortfall of ₹9,000 crore in addition to the revenue loss of about ₹9,500 crore due to non -merger of cess

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Karnataka, which estimated a revenue deficit of ₹19,262 crore at the commencement of 2025-26 financial year, is now expecting the deficit to further increase following the GST rate rationalisation and non-realisation of tax on mines.

The revenue deficit – primarily caused by the five guarantee schemes – in 2025-26 budget had come down to 0.63% from 0.96% of the 2024-2025 budget. Considering the growth rate, the government was estimated to overcome revenue deficit by 2027-28.

The Mid Year Assessment of Medium Term Fiscal Plan (MTFP) 2025-2029 tabled in the Winter Session of the Legislature here, estimates an expected lower revenue collections compared to the estimated targets – potentially increasing the revenue deficit in the current financial year. Due to GST rate rationalisation, the State estimates the revenue shortfall of ₹9,000 crore in addition to the revenue loss of about ₹9,500 crore due to non-merger of Cess.

The 2025-26 budget estimated a revenue expenditure of about ₹3.11 lakh crore against the estimated revenue receipts of about ₹2.92 lakh crore in the total budget size of ₹4.09 lakh crore. The first half of this fiscal, the State, however, has recorded a revenue surplus of ₹68 crore with revenue expenditure of ₹1,28,924 crore against revenue receipts of ₹1,28,987 crore. By the end of September, total spending was 36.4%. The capital expenditure increased by 32.3% in the first half of 2025-2026 over 2024-2025. The Union Finance Ministry has projected the State's GSDP to be around ₹30.91 lakh crores for 2025-2026.

The assessment noted that the increase in committed expenditure, including the State's spending on guarantees and various welfare schemes, has increased the revenue expenditure, and the GST rationalisation has further constrained the State's fiscal position.

Stating that the GST rate rationalisation will have significant impact on the State's finances, it said any reduction in SGST or other own tax revenue for States directly reduces fiscal capacity, potentially forcing them to either borrow more or cut essential services. The cessation of GST compensation mechanism has left States fully responsible for any revenue shortfall when the compensation period ended in 2022. State's GST to GSDP ratio fell sharply from 3.5 % in 2020 to 2.4 % in 2024. The GST revenue as percentage of GSDP has still not surpassed the levels recorded in the pre -GST era, it noted.

FDI inflow grows

Karnataka has recorded a remarkable year on year growth of 149.3 % in FDI equity inflows in the first quarter of 2025-2026 compared to 2024-2025. In the first quarter this fiscal, the FDI equity inflows to Karnataka reached $5.6 billion out if $ 18.6 billion received by the country.

In 2024-2025, State received $ 6.6 billion, representing 13.2 % of the nation's total FDI equity inflows.

SC order on mines

The assessment also noted the negative IGST settlement of ₹2,074 crore in April, 2025, that has moderated the overall revenue growth during the first half of the current fiscal year. While Karnataka expected a tax revenue of ₹3,000 crore from mines after it enacted the Karnataka Mineral Rights and Mineral Bearing Lands Tax bill, 2024, following Supreme Court direction, the Bill is still pending Presidential assent, it said.

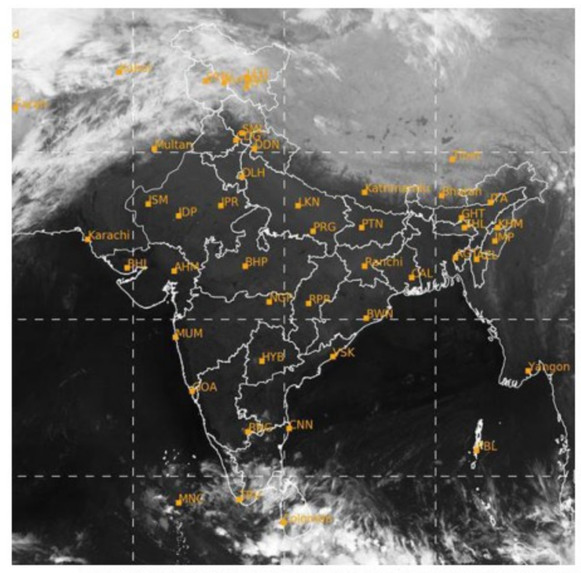
Meanwhile, the non -tax revenue has increased to ₹9,827 crore in the first six months of 2025-26 from ₹6,624 crore in the corresponding period last year. The own tax revenue has also increased from ₹84,945 crore in 2024-25 to ₹ 90,981 crore in 2025-26. The assessment noted that the revenue collections had shown a 7.7% increase over the corresponding period last year.

Centre's aid falls

However, the grant in aid from the Centre has decreased by 38.2 % in 2025-2026 from ₹8,309 crore in first half of last year to ₹5,139 crore received in the first six months of this fiscal. The assessment noted that the transfers from the Centre have shown no growth.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh. Dense/very dense fog likely at few/isolated pockets over Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Jharkhand and Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.5	14.2	Kozhikode	—	33.5	24.2
Ahmedabad	—	29.7	14.7	Kurnool	—	32.6	18.8
Aizawl	—	26.2	14.9	Lucknow	—	17.0	10.0
Allahabad	—	24.6	9.0	Madurai	—	30.5	23.3
Bengaluru	—	27.7	18.7	Mangaluru	—	34.5	22.7
Bhopal	—	26.6	5.1	Mumbai	—	33.8	18.4
Bhubaneswar	—	28.6	13.6	Mysuru	—	30.0	20.0
Chandigarh	—	23.0	8.3	New Delhi	—	24.7	10.4
Chennai	—	30.1	25.5	Patna	—	22.8	14.5
Coimbatore	—	31.2	21.6	Port Blair	—	30.6	25.2
Dehradun	—	21.4	6.6	Puducherry	—	29.4	23.6
Gangtok	—	18.4	7.7	Pune	—	31.1	15.3
Goa	—	34.5	23.0	Raipur	—	28.6	12.9
Guwahati	—	26.1	12.4	Ranchi	—	22.6	9.0
Hubballi	—	30.0	14.0	Shillong	—	19.6	6.5
Hyderabad	—	30.3	13.7	Shimla	—	23.8	10.4
Imphal	—	24.5	14.1	Srinagar	—	10.9	-1.6
Jaipur	—	29.0	10.7	Thiruvananthapuram	1	32.1	23.9
Kochi	—	31.2	24.6	Tiruchi	—	30.1	23.0
Kohima	—	16.0	7.0	Vijayawada	—	29.6	17.6
Kolkata	—	26.2	16.4	Visakhapatnam	—	29.0	19.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.64	.74	.33	181	169	
Bengaluru	.4	.15	.31	126	121	
Chennai	.78	.10	.41	20	63	
Delhi	.30	.96	100	368	306	
Hyderabad	.17	.16	.37	152	143	
Kolkata	.8	.21	.26	307	180	
Lucknow	.6	.39	.37	220	217	
Mumbai	.10	.65	.96	168	145	
Pune	.16	.84	.91	275	216	
Visakhapatnam	.13	.68	.16	224	—	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Rohtak, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 385 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Puducherry recorded a healthy AQI score of 28

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Maintenance of RO plants has become difficult in rural areas, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Though the RO water plants of the government are becoming popular in rural areas, it is becoming difficult for the government to manage them, according to Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department Minister Priyank Kharge.

Disclosing this while replying to Congress member U.B. Banakar during Question Hour in the Assembly, Mr. Kharge noted that RO plants were being put up by various agencies, including the private ones, through CSR funds.

While some of them had made arrangements for their regular maintenance, most of them did not have such arrangements. This had become difficult for the village panchayats who were entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining them, he explained.

Blue print

He said the RDPR Department was trying to put in a system for their maintenance.

A blue print in this regard was being prepared to ensure permanent solution for their maintenance.

"We are talking to several firms that manufacture RO plants to know if they could take up maintenance of the public RO plants in rural areas. While they are ready to sell their products to us, they are not ready to take up maintenance work," he said.

Ayyappa song parody triggers row in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A political parody set to the tune of a popular Ayyappa devotional song has sparked controversy in Kerala. The song weaves lyrics lampooning the LDF government over the Sabarimala gold theft scandal in the tune of a catchy devotional melody profoundly familiar to Ayyappa devotees. During the local body campaign trail, the UDF had deployed the song as an arguably surefire propaganda tool.

The dispute erupted on Tuesday after the Thiruvabharana Patha Samrakshana Samiti sought a criminal investigation into what it termed, a wilful trespass on faith.

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR & EX-OFFICO DPO SSK BIDAR DISTRICT BIDAR

No:DPI/2025-26/SE0406 Date: 08/12/2025

SHORT TERM E-TENDER

PROVIDING FOOD FOR 400 STUDENTS OF KKGBV SCHOOLS OF BIDAR DISTRICT

TENDER TIME TABLE:- 1) Tender Amount **Rs: 55.00 lakhs,** 2) Last Date & Time for submitting Tender Document on or before. **Date:26/12/2025 Time: 5.00 PM,** 3) Date & Time of opening of Technical Bid **Date:29/12/2025 Time:11:00 AM,** 4) Date & Time of opening of Financial Bid **Date:30/12/2025 Time:03.00 PM,** 5) E.M.D **Rs:1,10,000/-**, 6) Contact No: 9448999388, 7) Website address www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/Bidar/260/KSMC&A/2025-26

DDPI & EX-OFFICO DPO SSK BIDAR
Bidar Dist.Bidar.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Reg.Office:30/1, 1st and 2nd Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Millers Tank Bund Area, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560051. Email -Id: ceobswml@gmail.com

Ref.: CEO/PS/PR/55/2025-26 Date: 17.12.2025

:: Public Notice ::

(For the Bulk Waste Generators within the jurisdiction of Greater Bengaluru Authority)
Management of Bulk Waste through Authorized Waste Processor
{M/s Ecosphere Waste Solutions-a subsidiary of M/s Mukka Proteins Limited-AWP-298031620230056214 9}

1. Whereas, the local authorities to notify SWM Bye- Laws under rule-15(zf) and accordingly, SWM Bye-Laws notified in Gazette vide reference No.: Addl.Comm/SWM/PR/G-/9266/2019-20, dated: 20.04.2020.
2. Chapter-VII states about duties of bulk waste generators.
3. The bye-law 20(1)(a&b)) and 21(2/3/4/5) of SWM Bye-Law 2020 states about identification of bulk waste generators and availing services of Authorized Waste Processors(AWPs) for scientific management of solid waste and domestic hazardous & sanitary waste.
4. The bye-law 21(7) of SWM Bye-Law 2020 states about the intimation to be given to authority (BSWML) about availing the services of Authorized Waste Processors authorized by the concerned authority (BSWML).
5. Whereas, rule-4(3) of SWM Rules-2016 states about payment of user fees by waste generators as notified and also, rule-15(f) states about collection of user fees from waste generators.
6. Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi has also directed and stressed upon implementation of **"Polluter Pays Principle"** in its several judgment orders issued in OA No.:606/2018.
7. The Government of Karnataka notified user fee vide reference No.: UDD 500 MNY 2024(E), dated: 04.03.2025 in which maximum service charge for bulk waste management is capped at Rs.12/- per kg.
8. The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited being an agency of Greater Bengaluru Authority in exercise of the powers conferred under section 272(1) of GBG Act 2024, SWM Bye-Laws 2020 and SWM Rules 2016; by following due diligence and strictly adhering to the transparent procedure, has empaneled **M/s Mukka Proteins Limited** as Authorized Waste Processor **(certificate no. 298031620230056214 9)** and mapped to the jurisdiction of Bengaluru North City Corporation and Bengaluru East City Corporation along with cross boundary areas authorizing them to engage with the bulk waste generators to operate for collection, transportation, processing and disposal strictly in accordance with the SWM Rules-2016 and BBMP SWM Bye-Laws 2020.

➤ It is notified for strict acknowledgment/adoption by all the bulk waste generators {as per bye law-20(1)} viz. residential/commercial/institutional/others in the jurisdiction of **Bengaluru North City Corporation and Bengaluru East City Corporation along with cross boundary areas** to tie up with the **M/s Ecosphere Waste Solutions-a subsidiary of M/s Mukka Proteins Limited-** an Authorized Waste Processor **(AWP certificate no. 298031620230056214 9)** with immediate effect for scientific management of bulk waste to be compliant and adhered to statutory rules/laws.

➤ It is also, notified that none other than M/s Ecosphere Waste Solutions-a subsidiary of **M/s Mukka Proteins Limited(AWP certificate no. 298031620230056214 9)** is/are authorized/empanelled as Authorized Waste Processor (AWP) of Greater Bengaluru Authority in the jurisdiction of **Bengaluru North City Corporation and Bengaluru East City Corporation along with cross boundary areas.**

➤ It is notified for information of all bulk waste generators in the jurisdiction of Bengaluru North City Corporation and Bengaluru East City Corporation along with cross boundary areas that any **non-compliance or if any, disposal through unauthorized operators will attract penalty in accordance with the SWM Bye Laws, Environmental Compensation in accordance with the CPCB Guidelines and action in accordance with the provisions of GBGA 2024.**

➤ The Bulk Waste Generators shall submit annual return to BSWML as required in compliance to bye-law 14(7) of SWM Bye-Law 2020.

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited

DIPR/CP/4493/2025-26

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Executive Engineer (Planning & Co-ordination), Ground Floor, Annex-2 Building, BBMP head office, N.R.Square, Bangalore-560 002.

No: EE/P& C/PR/01/2025-26 Date:17.12.2025

NOTIFICATION

Sub: Engagement of Urban Designers and Urban Transport Experts on Contract Basis for the Planning and design cell under the Planning and Coordination Department at GBA (Call-2).

Applications are invited from qualified and experienced professionals for engagement on a contractual basis for a period of one (1) year extendable for one year, subject to periodic performance review in the Planning and design cell under the Planning and Coordination Department at GBA. The details of the positions are as follows:

Position	Number of Posts	Educational Qualification	Experience	Preferred Skills or Responsibilities
Urban Designer	1	Master's Degree in Urban Planning/ Urban Design from a recognized university.	Minimum 3-5 years of relevant professional experience in urban planning, land use, or related fields.	Should have professional experience with Urban design projects and be familiar with IRC codes and guidelines. Should have done field work, and be familiar with digital data collection. Should have engaged with government agencies and conducted public participation in the projects.
Urban Transport Expert	2	Master's Degree in Transportation Planning/ Transport Engineering/ Urban Transport Systems from a recognized university.	Minimum 3-5 years of relevant professional experience in urban mobility, transport planning or related fields.	Expertise in traffic analysis, transport modelling and public transport planning Familiarity with transport policies and smart mobility initiatives. Experience in preparing DPRs and feasibility studies.

1. Key Responsibilities :

- Support the planning, design, and development of urban infrastructure projects, especially related to roads and transport.
- Provide technical expertise in urban policy, mobility planning, urban transport integration, and related strategies.
- Collaborate with stakeholders for the execution of urban development initiatives.
- Assist in preparation of reports, project documents, and review of technical proposals.
- Contribute to planning and design of road infrastructure and urban streetscapes.
- Provide inputs for integrating aesthetics, functionality, and pedestrian-friendly designs.
- Assist in data collection, analysis, stakeholders consultations, and report preparation.
- Coordinate with relevant departments and consultants as required

2. Remuneration:

Shall be commensurate with qualifications and experience as per industry standards

3. Place of Posting:

Planning and design cell under the Planning and Coordination Department at GBA

Application Procedure: Interested candidates may submit their CV, qualification documents, and a brief cover letter highlighting relevant experience to the via the form - **https://bit.ly/Planninganddesigncell**

Last date for submission of applications: **07.01.2026.** Candidates who had applied for the post previously are not permitted to reapply for the post.

Note:

- Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview.
- The authority reserves the right to cancel or modify this notification without assigning any reason.
- For any queries, contact: 9986985040

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Planning & Co-ordination , Greater Bengaluru Authority

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: CEE/Tr(Op)Z/HSN/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2025-26/11237-40 Date: 16.12.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites bid for the following works.
Tender No.: KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT3059.
Combined package of the following works on **Partial Turnkey Basis** including supply of all materials/equipments and erection (including Civil works) of all materials/equipments, testing & commissioning:
1) Augmentation of existing 2x10MVA, 110/11kV Power transformer by 2x20MVA, 110/11kV Power transformer with NIFPS along with 2 no.s of additional MCVCB switch gear at **110/11kV sub-station Gandasi,** in Arasikere Taluk, Hassan District.
2) Augmentation of 2x10MVA NGEF Make Power Transformer-1 & 2 by 2x20MVA Power Transformer with NIFPS along with 2 no.s of Additional 11kV MCVCB Feeders at **110/11kV MUSS, Banavara,** Arasikere Taluk, Hassan District.
- Reserved for SC category.
The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the E-Tendering process can be obtained by logging on to website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on hyper link "tenders" on or after **18.12.2025 at 11:00 Hrs.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, (Elec.),
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, 3rd Floor,
Prasarana Bhavana, Santhepete, B.M. Road, Hassan - 573201.

Government of Karnataka
Minor Irrigation and Ground water Development Division, Chitradurga

NO.EE/MI&GWD DIV/CTA/PB2/TENDER NOTIFICATION: 14/ 2025-26 DATE: 16-12-2025

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

(TWO COVER) KW-3 & 4

Item rate tender in two cover system as per KTPP act-2000 with latest amendments is invited from the eligible contractors registered in KPWD (KW4) for the following work through e-procurement portal.

Name of work :-**(1)** CONSTRUCTION OF CHECKDAM AND PROTECTION WALL TO DODDAKERE HALLA NEAR KOLAHAL VILLAGE IN HOLALKERE CONSTITUENCY CHITRADURGA DISTRICT. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-80.65 E.M.D. in Rs.162000.00 Period of completion (including rainy season):-06 Months including monsoon period

(2) LIFT IRRIGATION SCHEME TO FILL UP TUMBIGERE VILLAGE TANKS IN MAYAKONDA CONSTITUENCY OF DAVANAGERE TALUK DAVANAGERE DISTRICT. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-820.24 E.M.D. in Rs.1231000.00 Period of completion (including rainy season):- 18 Months including monsoon period

Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurement website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 16-12-2025 Last Date & Time for enquiries about tender 24-12-2025 upto 5.30 P.M., Last Date for submission of Tenders 26-12-2025 upto 4.00 P.M. Opening of Technical bid Date: 29-10-2025 after 10.30 A.M (If possible). Opening of Finanical bid Date 30-12-2025 after 10.30 A.M (If possible). Tenders may be submitted along with EMD and tender fee (Mode of payment should be online only as prescribed in website). Amount mentioned in e-portal is final for the amount put to tender & the E.M.D. Additional Information regarding works may be obtained from the Division Office during office hours & from e-procurement help desk No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/ 540/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI, Chitradurga

Change for the worse

The move to alter MGNREGS beyond recognition must be dropped

The Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin), or VB-G RAM G Bill, tabled in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday to replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), deserves to be rejected for more than one reason. What is sought to be changed is not only the nomenclature but also the fundamental character of the existing Scheme (MGNREGS). This marks yet another attempt by the BJP-led government at the Centre to reduce the size of the development space to States. The only plausible reason for the name change is the fact that the BJP's ideological master, the RSS, had strong differences with Gandhi. The use of Gandhi's name in the 20-year-old scheme signifies the link to his Gram Swaraj concept that gives importance to democratic decentralisation. But the new Bill, by making the Union government virtually the sole decision maker in the proposed law, will not make any positive contribution in this direction. Supporters of the government point out that the increase in the days of work to 125 in a year is a major benefit for people in rural India. But, the data, on employment given to households under the MGNREGS, reveal that it was only during 2020-21, the COVID-19 pandemic year, that 9.5% (nearly 7.2 million) of households actually worked for 100 days. Over the last two years, only around 7% of families could get the full quota.

By calling the VB-G RAM G "a centrally sponsored scheme", the Union government has done away with the special status that the MGNREGS had enjoyed, wherein it had been absorbing the entire cost of wages payment for unskilled manual labour. In the proposed scheme, the fund-sharing pattern between the Centre and States generally would be 60:40. A benefit of the existing scheme was that rural wages have gone up sharply. The finances of States are not in a robust condition and there are apprehensions about the likely impact of the restructuring of the GST. Besides, when direct cash transfer schemes are increasingly being viewed as a political game changer, it is an open secret that not many States will be keen on participating in the fresh scheme. More importantly, the soul of the current law – a bottom up demand-based scheme – has been taken away. What has been proposed is a supply-driven framework wherein allocations will be capped, as decided by the Union government. Also, States will have to bear any excess expenditure, which is a new feature. Tamil Nadu and Kerala have opposed the Bill citing an undermining of States' interests. A feature of the Bill, which is meant to ensure that work does not clash with farm work during sowing/harvesting, may be included explicitly in the MGNREGS, after consultations with States. Howsoever passionately Minister for Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan may say that the new law is in line with Gandhi's sentiments, good governance, which is the goal of the idea of Ram Rajya, does not become a reality without diffused grassroots democracy – a condition neither sought to be promoted nor nourished by the proposed legislation.

Rearguard action

India needs year-round action to tackle fallout of change in weather

The fog season has commenced in India, kickstarting the annual cycle of adversity, accidents and chaos in northern India. The spike in particulate matter pollution after monsoon winds, and how it lays bare the year-round unmitigated pollution – now characteristic of not only Delhi, its surrounding capital regions and vast swathes of the Indo-Gangetic plains but, increasingly, even Mumbai, Kolkata and mushrooming urban clusters – is well known. Fog, which results from the fall in temperatures and an accumulation of moisture close to the ground, is also accompanied by air quality nose-diving. The air quality index (AQI) – that anyway hovers in the danger zones of 300-400 or 'very poor' air – breaks through into the worst categories of 'severe' and 'severe+' (400+) triggering extended waves of panic among citizens already besieged by poor quality air. Fog does not necessarily increase the toxicity of the air, which is anyway beyond permissible limits, but brings in additional catastrophes from poor visibility. So far, at least 25 people have been killed and 59 injured in fog-linked road accidents across Uttar Pradesh, with the worst tragedy unfolding on the Yamuna Expressway in Mathura, where a multi-vehicle pile-up turned into an inferno. Airline operations are in disarray in Delhi as 228 flights, including 131 departures and 97 arrivals, were cancelled and hundreds delayed on Monday.

The plummeting AQI saw emergency-level restrictions, called GRAP-4, come into effect in Delhi – it bans construction and demolition activities, pushes schools online and restricts the kinds of vehicles that can ply. On top of this, the Delhi government delivered a vacuous threat that vehicles without a pollution under control certificate would be denied fuel at refuelling stations, and those that did not comply with Bharat Stage-6 emission norms would be barred from entering city limits. This does not account for the fact that it is the residual emissions that are unabated in the capital region, trapped by moisture, that depresses the index. The Centre announces a spate of 'meetings' that do little other than regurgitate exhortations that are unheeded. This is the time that the Commission for Air Quality Management, an empowered body, must stress its independence and take year-round action to ensure that whatever the weather, Delhi's AQI stays below 350.

The story of 'We, the moving people'

Varghese K. George

Citizenship is tied to a person's residency in a delimited territory. A citizen is ordinarily expected to be residing in a particular location. The migration of people across borders – international or within a country – dislocates this presumed overlap between citizenship and territory, causing a conceptual drift. Neither governments nor political parties are fully equipped to deal with this, and what we see around the world is public angst that is being harnessed for mobilisation against recent immigrants, mass deportations and efforts to clean up voter lists.

In India, the Election Commission of India (ECI) is undertaking a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls. Pushing back against challenges to the move, the ECI told the Supreme Court of India: "Rapid urbanisation and frequent migration of population from one place to another on account of education, livelihood and other reasons have become a regular trend. Some electors obtain registration in one place and then shift their residence and register themselves at another place without getting their names deleted from the electoral roll of the initial place of residence. This has led to an increased possibility of repeated entries in the electoral roll. Thus, the ECI came to the conclusion that the situation warrants the conduct of a pan-India SIR beginning with the State of Bihar."

Under President Donald Trump, the United States Department of Justice asked all 50 States to hand over their full voter registration databases, arguing that access to complete electoral rolls was necessary to enforce federal election laws. The move triggered resistance from several States. This push coincided with a sweeping executive order signed by Mr. Trump to reshape federal election procedures, including a requirement for documentary proof of U.S. citizenship, such as a passport or birth certificate – measures supporters say strengthen election integrity, but which critics warn could undermine State autonomy and restrict voter access. Around 22 million-24 million non-citizens are in the U.S. legally; estimates of undocumented residents vary but run into the millions. In India and the U.S., the notion of alien voters influencing politics is strong.

A rise in those moving out

Though the proportion of international migrants in the world's population has remained broadly stable over the decades, the absolute number of migrants has grown rapidly. Migrants as a proportion of the global population may have increased by only about one percentage point since 1960 according to most estimates. But the number of people living outside their country of birth has expanded dramatically – from about 154 million in 1990 to over 300 million by mid-2024 – nearly doubling in just three decades and rising faster than the overall global population growth.

In western countries, nativist populism is linked to the rise in the proportion of foreign-born residents. In the U.S., about 14%-15% of the population is foreign born, up from roughly 13% in 2010. The United Kingdom has seen a sharper transformation: the share of those foreign-born rose from about 8% in 2001 to roughly 16% by 2021. Canada has one of the highest proportions among large economies, with about 22% of the population foreign-born. Australia stands out, with around 31%-32% of its population born overseas. Immigration is among the top three issues for voters in most developed countries in 2025, though its intensity as a concern has reduced a bit.

> The Special Intensive Revision of the electoral rolls, Census 2027 and delimitation will sharpen the migrant imprint on Indian politics

Governments want to regulate and manage the flow of people. India wants to 'export human resources', a euphemism for sending more people abroad for jobs. Rich countries that need young workers are increasingly not wanting them to stay on and claim citizenship, but to leave after a certain number of years. Returning migrants will bring back new social and political attitudes. In their host countries, they will form a labour class without political rights – as with H-1B workers in the U.S., though they have a distant pathway to citizenship. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and Singapore have created a category of workers without any political identity, and developed countries are now looking at temporary workers on similar lines.

There are about 35.4 million Overseas Indians (people of Indian origin); 15.8 million of them are Indian citizens, and 19.6 million are persons of Indian origin. Under the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2010, Indian citizens living abroad can enrol and exercise their franchise in their place of residence in India as mentioned in their passport. A petition before the Supreme Court argues that they should be able to vote remotely. The petitioner contends that the 2010 amendment shortchanges non-resident Indians by granting them the right to vote on the one hand, while requiring them to be physically present in India to actually exercise that right.

Policies and migration

Indian government policies have also encouraged migration from rural to urban areas and to specific regions such as Kashmir. In 2020, the rules for domicile in Jammu and Kashmir were relaxed, allowing non-locals – such as government officials posted for 10 years, residents for 15 years, and students for seven years – to obtain domicile status, with access to jobs and property. While critics argue that these changes are intended to alter the region's demographic composition, the government maintains that they are meant to facilitate development and integration.

Within national boundaries, there are other borders, and migrations across them have political and governance consequences. Domicile laws restrict access to many streams of education and jobs to natives of a particular State or region. The most significant implication of movement within the country's borders concerns voting rights. The right to vote is tied to a particular polling booth where a citizen is ordinarily resident. The SIR exercise is a determination of whether one can vote, but also, perhaps more importantly, where one can vote. The same person voting in Maharashtra or Kerala – net migrant-receiving States – as opposed to Bihar, which is a net migrant-sending State, has different political implications for national politics.

Changes in population composition affect politics, and an example is Mumbai, where Marathi speakers now constitute less than 40%, while Hindi speakers are around 30%. The nativist politics of the Shiv Sena has been decimated; parties now routinely field Hindi-speaking candidates in elections. In 2001, 31% of India's population were migrants and by 2011, this proportion had increased to 38%. Two-thirds of these migrants are women, due to marriage. Men, who make up the remaining third, tend to move farther and largely for economic reasons. Census 2027 will capture the enormity of this movement of people after nearly two decades.

Migrating people carry attitudes, values, stories and belief systems. The White House now celebrates Deepavali – a practice that began in 2003. It was through migration that Vedic practices spread from the Aryavarta region of the epics to its eastern and peninsular frontiers, mixing with pre-existing lore and expanding the cultural universe that would later be called Hinduism. Languages move with migrating people. Historically, it has been a case of more men than women who migrated, and migrating men met native women; the languages we speak today reflect this, Peggy Mohan argues in Father Tongue, Motherland

Birthright citizenship

Moving people is now challenging even the idea of birthright citizenship in countries where it once existed unquestioned. The Trump administration is trying to overturn a long-held interpretation of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution that all those born in the U.S. are eligible for citizenship. Until recently, an estimated 30,000 people were travelling to the U.S. annually to give birth, and there were tour companies that made this a business model. A 2015 law made it legal for people to seek visas for giving birth in the U.S., but in 2020, with the rise of Trump-era nativism, this was withdrawn. India, through a change in its citizenship law, has barred children born to an illegal immigrant from acquiring citizenship by birth.

Moving people moves the history of humankind. Moving people is remaking the politics of India. These changes will become visible through the Census, the SIR, and then delimitation, which will redistribute Lok Sabha representation across State borders for the first time in half a century.

varghese.g@thehindu.co.in

The changing patterns of India's student migration

Ginu Zacharia Oommen

is Chairperson , Kerala State Food Commission

Anu Abraham

is Senior Researcher, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)

India's latest wave of student migration marks a decisive shift that is no longer confined to elite universities or programmes that are fully funded. Today's migration is characterised by self-financed education where middle-class households invest heavily in the promise of a global degree and upward social mobility. In Ministry of External Affairs data, more than 13.2 lakh Indian students were enrolled in over 70 countries by 2023, which rose to 13.35 lakh in 2024, and projected to reach 13.8 lakh in 2025.

India is one of the top senders of international students, with the United States and Canada as the top destinations (40%), followed by the United Kingdom, Australia and Germany. This significant development is reflected in the report of the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Indian Diaspora (2022) which engages with students as one of India's major diaspora categories.

The true picture

While all this is seen by some as a democratisation of foreign education, with doors opening to students from different socio-economic classes, the reality is more complex. Many of these students are channelled into lower-tier institutions and vocational colleges, into courses often unrelated to their expertise and without much job prospects, due to recruitment agencies that operate in a grey legal zone. The partnership between recruitment networks and less credible private colleges abroad is driven primarily by commissions and profit, reflecting the largely unregulated expansion of the foreign education industry.

The outcome is widespread deskilling and underemployment, with many graduates unable to transition into skilled work. In the U.K., what were once polytechnics have become universities post 1992 that cater primarily to international students, sometimes waiving entry requirements and triggering controversy due to declining academic standards. Reports suggest that approximately only one in four Indian postgraduates in the U.K. secures a sponsored skilled visa.

> The rapid expansion of Indian student migration points to contradictions between aspiration and outcome, and opportunity and exploitation

Student migration from India represents a middle-class aspiration with significant risks. Kerala, historically defined by Gulf labour migration, illustrates this transformation as the Kerala Migration Survey (KMS) 2023 reports that student migration doubled in five years, from 1.29 lakh in 2018 to 2.5 lakh in 2023, which is 11.3% of total emigrants. Outward student remittances from Kerala are estimated at ₹43,378 crore, equivalent to about 20% of total inward remittances from labour migrants.

Reverse remittance

Most students migrate through self-financing or education loans, often mortgaging family property, with the hope of better employment and higher wages that would repay debts and enable higher living standards. However, for many, this journey ends in debt, underemployment or forced return, a phenomenon that economists describe as reverse remittances, where Indian households subsidise foreign economies.

Foreign students contribute significantly to host economies. In Canada, international students contributed about $30.9 billion to GDP in 2022, supporting over 3,61,000 jobs. In 2023, Canada hosted over 4,27,000 Indian students, which is roughly 45% of international enrolments. In the U.S., roughly 4,00,000 Indian students, in 2024, spent an estimated $7 billion-$8 billion annually on tuition, housing and living costs, sustaining universities and local economies.

Across destinations, students shoulder substantial financial burdens, sometimes to the tune of ₹40 lakh-₹50 lakh, to finance studies abroad. Rising rents, restricted working hours, and visa caps exacerbate financial and mental strains. Unable to find skilled work, many take up low-wage unskilled jobs, often juggling multiple part-time jobs, sometimes undocumented, to work longer hours, and facing exploitation. Restrictive visa rules, limited post-study employment options and a lack of placement support from low-ranked colleges exacerbate this downward mobility. For instance, until 2024, the U.K. allowed students to convert student visas into care visas, offering a survival route in a tight job market, but this pathway has since become impossible due to new restrictions.

The local context

This outflow of students needs to be understood within the domestic context that is driving it. Is it the perceived lack of quality in domestic institutions or an inability to find well-paid domestic employment? With foreign universities establishing offshore campuses in Dubai, Singapore, and other destinations offering western degrees at lower costs, it is telling that Indian students rarely choose them. The reason is more structural. For many, studying in OECD countries is not only about education but about permanent residency, social mobility and an escape from a third world identity.

Ironically, this wave of student migration has also created a new form of cheap labour for OECD countries, akin to Gulf labour migration except that it is now accompanied by reverse remittances often financed through savings and debt.

This rapid expansion of Indian student migration exposes deep systemic contradictions between aspiration and outcome, and between opportunity and exploitation, resulting in a phenomenon that can be described as brain waste. It calls for stronger regulation of education agents, pre-departure counselling, and bilateral frameworks to ensure institutional accountability abroad.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Contentious move

The move by the Centre to change the name of the rural employment scheme, MGNREGA, to VB-G RAM G is jarring. Where is the need to change the name of the scheme, named after the greatest icon of our freedom movement? Increasing the number of man days, from 100 to 125, is a smokescreen. Increasing the financial burden of States is the first step that would lead to the breakdown of the scheme. The Centre can initiate new welfare schemes.

S.V. Venkatakrishnan, Coimbatore

While the objectives of VB-G RAM G sound good, the mechanisms chosen to achieve them (capped funding, increased State burden, central control) will practically dilute the legal guarantee and make the scheme less accessible to the rural poor. It is a fact that India has witnessed a gradual rise in rural-to-urban migration due to a lack of opportunities in villages.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao, Hyderabad

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Overseas Bill betrays migrant workers

Rejimon Kuttappan
is a labour migration expert

In the shadow of India's economic ascent, millions of its citizens – predominantly from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Kerala – embark on perilous journeys abroad, chasing the mirage of dignity through sweat and sacrifice.

These are India's labour migrants: construction workers scaling Gulf skyscrapers, domestic helpers scrubbing floors in Arab mansions, factory hands assembling gadgets in Southeast Asian sweatshops. They remit billions, fuelling families back home and propping up a gross domestic product that aspires to superpower status. Yet, as the Overseas Mobility (Facilitation and Welfare) Bill, 2025, wends its way through the Indian Parliament, it stands not as a shield for these foot soldiers of globalisation, but as a conveyor belt accelerating their slide into exploitation.

This legislation, billed as a sleek upgrade to the 1983 Emigration Act, is a Trojan horse of deregulation dressed in the garb of efficiency. It promises "facilitation" but delivers fragility, prioritising bureaucratic streamlining over the blood-and-bone realities of migrant workers. If passed unamended, it will etch deeper scars into India's global workforce.

Key issues

At its core, the Bill eviscerates enforceable rights that could anchor labour migrants against the tempests of abuse. The 2021 draft, for all its flaws, at least envisioned migrants as agents of their fate – empowering them to haul exploiters into court with their own hands. The 2025 version yanks that lifeline away, consigning workers to the whims of indifferent state machinery.

Worse still, the Bill abandons the most vulnerable flanks of the migrant army. Labour migration is a gendered battlefield, with women bearing the brunt of trafficking and sexual violence. The 2021 draft imposed heftier penalties for crimes against women and children; the new one dilutes this to a vapid nod towards "vulnerable classes," a catch-all that invites judicial foot-dragging.

The Bill's silence on human trafficking leaves a yawning chasm. Labour migrants are not statistics; they are sons and daughters, dispatched to high-risk corridors, where exploitation is not an aberration but architecture. By scrubbing these safeguards, the Bill does not facilitate mobility – it fertilises the soil for modern-day slavery.

Exploitation's machinery hums on unchecked, too, as the Bill guts anti-predation tools that once kept recruitment agencies in line. Gone is the 2021 mandate for transparent fee disclosure, the very dam against the flood of debt bondage that drowns migrants before they even board the flight.

Today, a worker from rural Bihar might fork over lakhs to a shadowy agent for a "guaranteed" job in Riyadh, only to arrive facing a substituted contract at half the pay – if he arrives at all.

FOCUS ON MIGRATION

The Bill's "accreditation" system for agencies invites a carnival of crooks. Emigration Check Posts vanish in favour of digital nods – convenient for Delhi's desks, catastrophic for the worker signing away his life in a back-alley deal.

Once abroad, the betrayal deepens. The 2021 vision held agencies responsible for reception, dispute mediation, and document renewals. Now, these duties dissolve into "functions" for government bodies, overburdened and under-resourced.

The Integrated Information System, touted as tech-savvy salvation, morphs instead into a surveillance spectre, hoovering migrant data without consent. Who benefits? Not the worker phoning home in desperation, but the state logging his every move – while foreign bosses, spared direct penalties, laugh from afar. Illicit online recruitment, the digital Wild West where fake jobs lure the desperate via WhatsApp scams, goes unmentioned.

Reintegration, that fragile bridge home, fares no better. The Bill murmurs of "safe return" but skimps on funds for vocational training or trauma counselling, cynically excluding deportees within 182 days as non-"returnees."

This centralised colossus compounds the cruelty, erecting a Delhi-dominated edifice that sidelines the federal mosaic where migration pulses. States such as Kerala, with its migrant-sending savvy, or Uttar Pradesh, cradle of the exodus, get no seat at the Overseas Mobility Council's table, nor do trade unions or rights groups.

State Nodal Committees, grassroots sentinels in the 2021 draft, evaporate under centrally anointed officers. Crises brew locally – family pleas in Lucknow, hospital vigils in Thrissur – yet solutions gestate in air-conditioned isolation. Penalties, meanwhile, limp: recruitment rackets fined, but traffickers and overseas tyrants are untouched.

Time to act

India's labour migrants are not expendable exports; they are the sinew of a nation that preens on their remittances while pocketing their perils. The 2025 Bill will turbocharge this inequity. Parliament must intervene, reinstate self-advocacy rights, mandate fee transparency and post-arrival safeguards, federalise governance with civil society's roar, and arm penalties with compensation claws. Define trafficking, broaden "work" to embrace gig frontiers, and fund reintegration that rebuilds lives. The hour demands not facilitation, but fortification. For these workers, whose hands build empires abroad and homes within, anything short is not reform – it is rupture.

The legislation, billed as a sleek upgrade to the 1983 Emigration Act, is a Trojan horse of deregulation dressed in the garb of efficiency

A summit that rose beyond optics

The Telangana Rising Summit outlines the Congress government's Vision 2047

STATE OF PLAY

N. Ravi Kumar
ravikumar.n@thehindu.co.in

For the Revanth Reddy-led Congress government, the Telangana Rising Summit earlier this month was the first major ground-up event of its kind since coming to power two years ago. Keenly watched, it was as important for the underlying message it sought to convey as for the optics.

Everything about it was new: the ambitious Telangana Vision 2047 document for which it served as a launch vehicle, the wide-ranging discussions, and the choice of the proposed Bharat Future City as the venue. Though Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy sought to avoid any political connotation by declaring in the run-up that the two-day event would be an economic summit and by personally inviting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the link was not easy to miss. Comments from Opposition leaders in the State only helped generate more public attention.

Neither Mr. Reddy nor his government, however, is new to challenges. It was not just limited to politics; the State administration encountered opposition to land acquisition, was rapped on the knuckles when it tried to dispose of 400 acres of prime land near Hyderabad, and grappled with a resource crunch while trying to move fast on big-ticket projects, be it Metro Rail expansion or the Musi River rejuvenation. A proposal to raise reservations for Backward Castes in local bodies also ran into legal hurdles.

The two years were not without their share of highs. The dispensation implemented some of its poll promises, especially the popular free bus scheme for women, even as delegations led by Mr. Reddy to Davos, the U.S., and South Korea helped garner investment commitments for new projects.

The Telangana Rising Summit thus provided an opportunity for the Chief Minister to elaborate on his government's plans to make the State a $1 trillion economy by 2034 and a $3 trillion economy by 2047. The government made the most by unveiling the Vision document – the pathway with inclusive growth as its core. Ministers spelt out the broad outline, discussing both opportunities and challenges for their departments. While the Chief Minister stressed the larger picture, unveiled the Vision document and presided over MoU signings, the emphasis on team effort also sent a clear message about who was in the driver's seat.

The staggering cumulative investment commitments received from a number of companies added value to what might otherwise have been seen as a two-year-in-government celebration. Though it is common knowledge that MoUs and letters of intent take time to fructify, the commitments worth ₹5.75 lakh crore on projects across diverse sectors could not be ignored.

The most significant statement the government made through the Summit was by showcasing its proposed Bharat Future City, which is eventually expected to span 30,000 acres and form an integral part of a three-tier development model for Telangana. Many of the projects for which MoUs were signed are to be grounded there. Interestingly, in a State where protests over land acquisition have been common, but where land has yielded manifold returns for speculators and investors in a short span on the back of rapid development and growing demand, the Future City did not find opposition. It is possibly because realty is a common denominator and cuts ice across ideologies, given how the credit for the development of Cyberabad or IT hub of Hyderabad is sought to be cornered by politicians.

If there was any opposition, it was nothing beyond murmurs. While the BJP State leadership described the Summit as an attempt to whitewash the government's failures, a BRS leader dismissed it as a road to a real estate venture, and another from the party used the occasion to recall the its 10-year rule and how it serves as the foundation for the present level of interest. No one, however, opposed the Bharat Future City. Given the broad-based development proposed, the long gestation, and the need for policy continuity, it is anyone's guess as to how it will shape. The Hyderabad Pharma City project, which derailed after a change in leadership, is a case in point, with the Congress government deciding to use land acquired by the BRS for that project for the Future City instead.

The Summit thus was a forum for the government to take stock and live up to the tagline "Telangana means business".

Record-high number of Indians deported from U.S. in 2025

Concern and distaste for deportations have increased among Democrats and Republicans

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

In 2025, 3,258 Indian nationals were deported by the United States to India, the highest annual figure since at least 2009. Concurrently, more than half of surveyed Americans said that the U.S. was doing "too much" when it came to deporting illegal immigrants, according to the Pew Research Centre.

The data on deportation was provided in a reply to a question posed by Minister Ramji Lal Suman in a Rajya Sabha session. The figure for 2025 includes deportations that occurred between January 1 and November 28, 2025. There were more than two times as many deportations this year when compared to 2024 **(Chart 1)**.

The deported individuals are those who have, according to the U.S. government, illegally entered the country, overstayed their visa validity, are staying there without any documentation, or have criminal convictions against them.

In October this year, more than half of the surveyed U.S. adults believed that the Trump administration was overstepping when it came to deportations. In fact, when asked if "all" the illegal immigrants should be deported, only 31% of them said yes, with more than half saying that only "some" should be deported.

The disapproval of deportations has increased by nine percentage points between March and October of this year. The increase was seen across partisan coalitions.

Where only 13% of Republicans and Republican-leaning respondents said the administration was doing "too much" in March, 20% of them did in October. The share of Democrats and Democrat-leaners who believed so also increased during this time period, chalking up to 86% in October **(Chart 2)**.

Even though there is an increase in the share of Republicans who feel Donald Trump is overstepping, a considerably high share of them continue to believe that all immigrants living illegally in the country should be deported **(Chart 3)**. White Republicans were the racial group with the highest share of respondents who believed the same. About 40% Asian Republicans shared the same beliefs.

While only 8% of Democrats said that all illegal immigrants should be deported, a large share of Democrats did believe that some such immigrants should be. About 16% of Black Democrats wanted the deportation of all illegal immigrants. Hispanic respondents from both parties were the groups with the most respondents who said no illegal immigrants should be deported. While general concern about Mr. Trump overstepping in deportations increased between March and October across both parties, the same cannot be said when it comes to their worry about personal impact. In March, 27% of Democrats were worried that regardless of their immigration or citizenship status, a family member, close friends, or themselves were at risk of being deported. By October, more than 40% of Democrats reported they felt this way.

The Republican respondents did not waver in their sentiments over the course of the year, as only 10% of them said the same in both March and October. While concerns have risen across most racial and ethnic groups, they remain highest among Hispanic individuals, as more than 50% of them said they were worried that someone close to them could be deported. Hispanic respondents, along with African-American and Asian individuals, saw spikes in the share of people who felt the same **(Chart 4)**. About six in ten Hispanic people say Immigration and Customs Enforcement has conducted arrests or raids in their area in recent months. This is higher than the shares of Asian (47%), Black (39%) or White (38%) adults who said so.

Rising removals

Data for the charts were sourced from Parliament Q&A and the Pew Research Centre. The survey of U.S. adults was conducted from Oct. 6-16, 2025 period

Chart 1: Number of Indian citizens deported by the United States of America

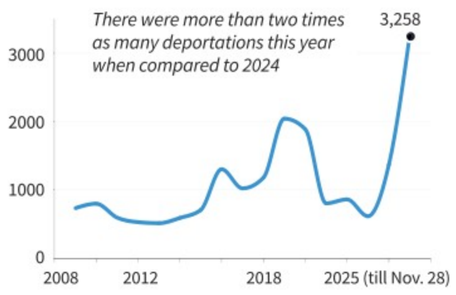


Chart 3: % of U.S. adults who say that when it comes to deporting immigrants who are living in the U.S. illegally, the Trump administration is doing too little/about the right amount/too much among...

Chart 3A: Republicans/Republican-leaning

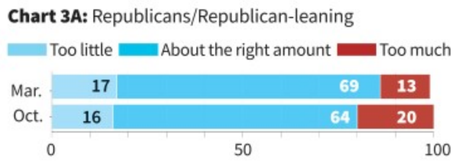


Chart 3B: Democrats/Democrat-leaning

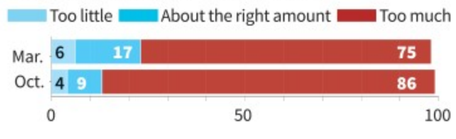


Chart 2A: % of U.S. adults who say that when it comes to deporting immigrants who are living in the U.S. illegally, the Trump administration is doing too little/about the right amount/too much

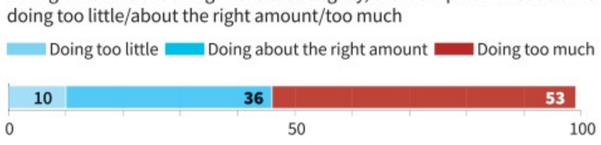


Chart 2B: % of U.S. adults who say all/some/none of the immigrants living in the U.S. illegally should be deported

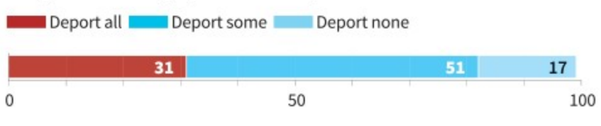
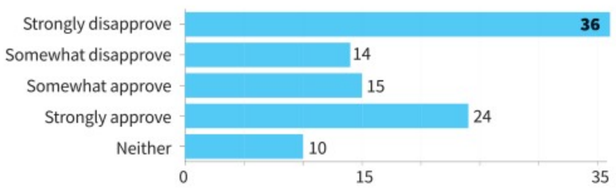


Chart 2C: % of U.S. adults who approve/disapprove of the Trump administration's approach to immigration



Estimates for *Asian adults are representative of English speakers only. Asian Republicans have a relatively small sample size of 190, for a margin of error of +/- 9.8 percentage points at 95% confidence.

Note: White, Black and Asian adults include those who report only being one race and are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Black Republicans are a very small share of the population, so their responses cannot be shown separately. "No answer" responses are not shown.

Chart 4: % of U.S. adults who say all/some/none of the immigrants living in the U.S. illegally should be deported among...

Chart 4A: Republicans/Republican-leaning

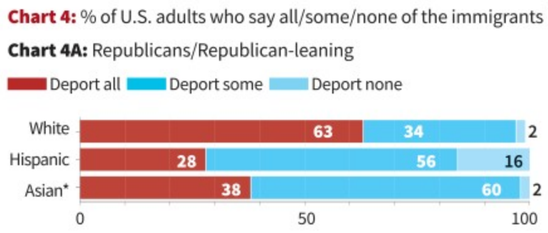
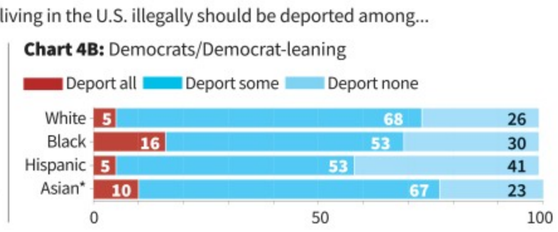


Chart 4B: Democrats/Democrat-leaning



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 18, 1975

Sarees export in 1974-75

New Delhi, December 17: India's exports trade in sarees amounted to a little over Rs. 7.5 crores in 1974-75

The saree has found a permanent place in many a feminine wardrobe abroad despite climatic differences and surprising range of fashion trends.

Cotton sarees constitute the major area of Indian exports. These fetched the bulk of foreign exchange of Rs. 3.9 crores in 1974-75. The export range in the group includes a variety of sarees, such as, decontrolled powerloom sarees grey which brought in foreign exchange worth Rs. 1.13 crores (46 lakh sq. metres) during 1974-75. The main importer of this variety was Bangladesh whose intake was 44 lakh sq. metres, valued at Rs. 1.08 crores.

Bleached carded yarn sarees valued at Rs. 14.3 lakh were marketed in USSR, German Democratic Republic and Saudi Arabia. Piece-dyed fetched foreign exchange over Rs. 19 lakhs. The main importers were Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia and Sudan. Hand-printed sarees valued at Rs. 10 lakhs were exported to Nepal, Saudi Arabia and Sudan.

Silk sarees secured nearly Rs. 1.9 crores in foreign exchange. In this group, different varieties of silk sarees zari bordered over 90 per cent silk handlooms, earned Rs. 64 lakhs (2.1 lakh metres). The main markets were U.K. (Rs. 27 lakhs) followed by Singapore, Kenya and Mauritius. Other silk sarees, over 90 per cent silk handloom, valued at Rs. 1.02 crores (3.8 lakh metres) were exported to U.K. (Rs. 21.5 lakhs), Singapore (Rs. 14 lakhs), Malaysia (Rs. 14 lakhs) and Federal Republic of Germany (Rs. 12 lakhs). Handloom silk sarees embroidered with real zari brought in foreign exchange worth Rs. 60 lakhs and handloom silk sarees embroidered with imitation zari earned Rs. 13.6 lakhs.

Art silk sarees were also in demand abroad. The export earnings in this field was valued at Rs. 1.7 crores.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 18, 1925

Sale of Kipling's work

New York, December 17: The sale of a collection of 622 rare Kiplingiana yielded a record price of 12,662 dollars. The first edition of the "School-boy Lyrics" fetched 1,450 and "Echoes" 1,225 dollars respectively.

From Page One

Lok Sabha passes nuclear energy Bill

In 2008, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had moved a no-confidence motion against the Manmohan Singh government for, among other things, the absence of such a clause. Later, this was also a reason for the lack of foreign participation in India's nuclear sector despite the U.S.-India nuclear deal that granted India a waiver from Nuclear Suppliers Group sanction as it opened foreign companies to potentially unlimited liability.

"I now see that there is no reference to suppliers... god forbid if there is an accident... shouldn't a foreign supplier be liable?" Mr. Tewari questioned.

'Times have changed'

Mr. Singh acknowledged that the BJP had voiced opposition in the past and said that the existence of the clause "had caused reservations in collaborators" but the scenario today was different from 2010. "Times have changed... technology has changed. We are now into small modular reactors which didn't exist as a technology at that time. There will now be reactors - following the just announced Nuclear Mission - that will give power in dense areas. The risk of catastrophe has now changed. This Bill is coming in because the scenario has changed," he said.

Aditya Yadav of the Samajwadi Party accused the government of bringing in the Bill by "sacrificing the old laws... that kept public interest first" because the government faced with a "dollar that has crossed ₹90" and "unable to attract foreign investment" was "desperately trying to throw a red carpet to American companies" under pressure from the "prevailing Trump tariffs".

Supriya Sule, MP from the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar), asked how it was possible to cap the liability of plant operators at ₹3,000 crore. "How can you put a cap on that... how have you calculated this magic number?" she asked.

India calls for safety of its mission in Dhaka

"It is unfortunate that the interim government has neither conducted a thorough investigation nor shared meaningful evidence with India regarding the incidents", the MEA's statement added.

Soon after the group's protest call, the Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) in Dhaka announced that it would stop all operations at 2 p.m., saying that visa appointments set for the second half of the day would be rescheduled. "We expect the interim government to ensure the safety of Missions and Posts in Bangladesh in keeping with its diplomatic obligations," the MEA said.

The rally by the July Oikyo Mancho, made up of multiple conservative parties and organisation, in the afternoon was stopped by the police after it had covered some distance but before it reached the Indian mission's premises. "Next time we will enter the Indian High Commission. Political parties in Bangladesh feel they need Hindustan's friendship to survive in Bangladesh's politics but on August 5 [2024], the student-people uprising has proved that Bangladesh will not accept India's domination," said Rashed Pradhan of the Jatiyo Gonotantrik Party, addressing the rally.

Anti-India comments

The MEA's summons to the Bangladeshi envoy came a day after both countries celebrated Vijay Divas or Victory Day on December 16, commemorating the end of the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, even as anti-India comments made by Bangladeshi student leaders went viral on social media.

"We will not tolerate if terrorism is exported from India. Our enemies will not be safe if our security is harmed," said Mahfuj Alam, a student leader who is campaigning for the upcoming elections in Bangladesh.

'Muslim-dominated segments mapped better in Bengal SIR'

Top 20 Assembly constituencies with lowest share of unmapped population have 40% Muslims on average, shows study; researchers suggest SIR likely hit migrant Hindus from Bangladesh more

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Assembly constituencies in West Bengal with a higher percentage of Muslim population have a lower share of unmapped voters in the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal, a study by Kolkata-based SABAR Institute has found.

The Election Commission on Tuesday published the draft electoral rolls of West Bengal following the SIR, with names of 58 lakh electors deleted from the existing voter lists.

The analysis found that 20 constituencies with the highest share of unmapped populations have an average Muslim population of 13.75%, which is much lower than the State's average Muslim population of 27% as estimated in the last Census.

The constituencies with a higher number of unmapped population are mostly located in Kolkata and adjoining districts such as North 24 Parganas and Howrah. In Kolkata, the constituencies are Kolkata Port, Bhabanipur, Rashbehari, and Kolkata Port. In North 24 Parganas, they are Bongaon Uttar, Ashoknagar, Jagatdal, Rajarhat Gopalpur, Bangaon Uttar Madhyamgram, Dum Dum Uttar and Panihati.

Counter effect

Researchers from Kolkata-based SABAR Institute say it is not Muslims but Matuas, a community of Hindu migrants from Bangladesh, who are likely to face the highest exclusion

- 20 Assembly constituencies with the highest share of unmapped population have an average Muslim population of **13.75%**
- In contrast, top 20 Assembly constituencies with the lowest share of unmapped population have a Muslim population of around **40%** on average

The researchers of SABAR Institute pointed out that, in contrast, the top 20 constituencies with the lowest share of unmapped populations show a very different picture and have a significant number of Muslim voters.

These constituencies include Domkal (which has one of the highest Muslim populations in the State at about 85%), Suti, Hariharpara and Rejinagar - all four located in Murshidabad, a district with a Muslim population of about 70%; Ratua and Sujapur in Malda with a high Muslim population; Magrahat Purba, Magrahat Paschim, Patharpratima and Mandirbazar located in South 24 Parganas, and Moyna and Kanthi Uttar in Purba Medinipur district.

The researchers said that on an average, these constituencies have a Muslim population of around 40%, far above the State's average of 27%, which suggests that constituencies with higher Muslim population have lower share of unmapped voters.

Ashin Chakraborty, a researcher at the institute, said the data which had emerged from the first phase of the SIR challenged a dominant political narrative. "For years, a section of big and influential leaders has claimed that Muslim infiltrators have entered West Bengal and are voting illegally. But this data-based evidence clearly shows that the reality is different," he said.

Mr. Chakraborty suggested that Muslims were less likely to be affected by voter mapping issues because most had the required documents. "If the special intensive revision leads to large-scale exclusion, it will not be Muslims who are hit the hardest. The data show that Matuas are likely to face the maximum exclusion, as they are disproportionately represented among unmapped voters," he added.

The Matuas are a social group largely comprising Namashudras who have migrated from Bangladesh over the past several decades. The community of Hindu refugees, largely residing in North 24 Parganas and Nadia district, has been apprehensive of the SIR since they lack legacy data. Fears over the SIR have, over past few weeks, prompted the Matuas to apply for citizenship under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019.

Nehru papers not missing, with Sonia since 2008: Centre

The response comes in the wake of claims and counterclaims over access to the archival material

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday said that documents linked to India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, were not "missing" from the Prime Minister's Museum and Library (PMML) but had been sent to senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi in 2008.

There have been repeated claims and counterclaims over access to Nehru's personal correspondence and the handling of archival material linked to him. In September, controversy erupted when Rizwan Kadri, a member of the Prime Ministers Museum and Library Society, wrote to Ms. Gandhi seeking physical or digital access to private papers relating to Nehru that are believed to be in her possession.

Against this backdrop, on Monday, Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha, said that "no documents related to India's first Prime Minister had been found missing from the museum during the annual inspection in the PMML in the year 2025".

This prompted the Congress to demand an apology. "The truth was finally revealed in the Lok Sabha yesterday. Will there be an apology forthcoming," Congress leader Jairam Ramesh asked on X.

The Ministry on Wednesday, however, said that M.V. Rajan, a representative of Ms. Gandhi, had in a letter dated April 29, 2008, requested that she wished to take back all of the private family letters and notes of Nehru. "Accordingly, 51 cartons of Nehru Papers were sent to Smt. Sonia Gandhi in 2008," the Ministry said in a post on X.

It said PMML has been in continuous correspondence with the office of Ms. Gandhi since then for return of the papers.

"Therefore, Nehru Papers are not 'missing' from PMML as their whereabouts are known. These documents, relating to the first Prime Minister of India, form part of the nation's documentary heritage and not a private property. Their custody with PMML and access to citizens and scholars for research is vital," the post said.

8 officials, 3 juveniles held over death at Odisha school hostel

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Police arrested eight officials of the city-based Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) on Wednesday for allegedly suppressing information related to the suspected killing of a Class 9 student following bullying by fellow inmates.

Three students allegedly involved in the death were also detained and produced before the Juvenile Justice Board

According to the police, statements from classmates and hostel inmates revealed that the three accused students assaulted, throttled and strangulated the victim on the night of December 11 after he refused to hand over a bucket in the toilet block.

The next day, KISS authorities reportedly informed the victim's parents that their son had died of cardiac arrest in a bathroom.

The parents and relatives noticed injury marks on the neck and other parts of the body. Suspecting foul play, they staged a demonstration outside the office of the Keonjhar District Collector. The police registered a case.

"After a detailed investigation and questioning hostel inmates, we found sufficient grounds to believe that this is a case of murder," Commissioner of Police S. Debadatta Singh said on Wednesday.

A post-mortem conducted in Keonjhar confirmed that the death was caused by pressure applied to the neck, Mr. Singh said.

Navy commissions second MH-60R copter squadron, the 'Ospreys', at *INS Hansa*

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

INAS 335, the Ospreys, the second Indian Naval Air Squadron to operate MH-60R helicopters, was commissioned at INS Hansa, Goa, on Wednesday. The ceremony was presided over by Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), marking another major milestone in the modernisation of Indian naval aviation.

The commissioning follows the induction of the first MH-60R helicopter squadron at Kochi, Kerala, in March 2024. With the induction of the versatile, multi-role MH-60R helicopter on the western seaboard as the first operational squadron, the Navy has significantly enhanced its rotary wing combat and surveillance capabilities.

With the latest commissioning, the Navy has significantly enhanced its rotary wing combat and surveillance capabilities. ANI

Addressing the gathering, Admiral Tripathi said the commissioning assumes special significance as 2025 marks 75 years since the Government of India approved the formation of the Fleet Air Arm, a historic decision that gave wings to naval aviation.

Recalling earlier capability additions at INS Hansa, the CNS noted that the Navy had commissioned its second P-8I maritime patrol aircraft squadron at the same airbase in 2022. Complementing the P-8I fleet, the Navy is going ahead with the acquisition of 15 MQ-9B Sea Guardian remotely piloted aircraft.

NIA arrests 'linchpin' in illegal arms trafficking case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested the prime accused in a case involving multi-State illegal arms and ammunition trafficking, originating from Bihar and spread across various parts of northern India.

The accused has been identified as Kamalkant Verma alias 'Uncle Ji' from Patna, Bihar, the 11th person arrested in the case.

Mr. Verma played a vital role in the syndicate, and was involved in procuring ammunition illegally from various "gun houses" of Haryana and other places, according to the NIA. The ammunition was then smuggled to Uttar Pradesh and further delivered to Bihar and other parts of the country.

Uttarakhand Governor returns UCC, religious conversion Bills

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

In a setback to the Pushkar Singh Dhami-led Uttarakhand government, Governor Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh (retd.) has returned the amendment Bills related to the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and the State's Freedom of Religion and Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion Act, citing technical flaws.

Sources in the government confirmed that the Governor's office has returned the Bills.

"Apart from some grammatical and technical errors, the Governor has also raised issues with the punishment term for a couple of offences in the new legislations," an official involved in the drafting of the Bills told *The Hindu*.

Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

He added that since the Bills have now come back from the Governor's office, they will have to be redrafted, removing the mistakes pointed out and addressing other technical glitches. "The government then will be left with two options, either pass the amendments by bringing an ordinance or get them passed again in the State Assembly and send them again for the Governor's consideration," the official added.

Although the State government has claimed that the Governor's office returned the Bills due to minor faults, the Congress termed the move a tactic to keep the issues alive in public memory ahead of the Assembly elections due in 2027.

"If they were just minor flaws, the Governor's office could have unofficially sent them back for corrections. ...it is just a tactic of the government to recall the Bills and once again pass them in the Assembly sometime around the elections which are due in early 2027 because the BJP has already used all its divisive tactics to win elections and now they are left with nothing new," Uttarakhand Congress vice-president Suryakant Dhasmana said.

Suggest measures to prevent attacks on judges: SC to Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Centre and the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) to suggest measures to prevent a repeat of incidents such as the one in October when a lawyer threw an object at the then Chief Justice of India's Bench.

On October 6, advocate Rakesh Kishore hurled an object at a Bench led by then Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai and shouted slogans before he was escorted out of the court room.

The SCBA, represented by senior advocate Vikas Singh, has sought contempt action against Mr. Kishore.

However, the Bench led by the current Chief Justice of India, Justice Surya Kant, had steered the trajectory of the petition away from the contempt jurisdiction to framing guidelines to prevent such incidents from happening in the future. On Wednesday, the court impleaded the Centre, represented by the Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, in the case.

Besides, preventive measures, the Bench directed the lawyers' body and the Centre to propose protocol that has to be followed by "everyone" in "publicising, reporting" such incidents.

The SCBA has contended that Mr. Kishore's act was "contempt on the face of the court".

Two more Indians killed in Russia-Ukraine war zone

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Bodies of two Indians killed in the Russia-Ukraine war zone arrived at the Delhi airport on Wednesday. Since September, at least four Indians have been killed in the war zone and 59 others are missing.

The deceased have been identified as Ajay Godara (22), a resident of Rajasthan, and Rakesh Kumar (30) from Uttarakhand. The two were allegedly enlisted in the Russian Army after being misled by agents who promised them work as cleaners and helpers.

On December 3, ahead of Russian President Vladimir Putin's state visit to India, Lok Sabha member from Nagaur, Rajasthan, Hanuman Beniwal raised the issue of safe return of 61 Indians allegedly enlisted in the Russian Army to participate in the ongoing war against Ukraine.

Ajay Godara

Prakash Godara, a cousin of Ajay Godara, told *The Hindu* that they received a call from the Indian Embassy in Moscow on December 9 informing them about the death.

The death certificate issued by Russia states that Ajay Godara died "during active military service."

Godara's family was among scores of people from across the country who protested at Delhi's Jantar Mantar twice seeking government's intervention.

The family had met Union Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal, also a local MP, several times and had raised the matter with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Pankaj Kumar, a friend of the other deceased, Rakesh Kumar, said the family got to know about the death five days ago.

The Hindu reported on September 10 that Indians continued to be enlisted in the Russian Army despite an assurance by Moscow in 2024 that it no longer would admit Indians.

Prasar Bharati drafts policy to monetise television, OTT content

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prasar Bharati, the government-owned national broadcaster, has uploaded a draft Content Syndication Policy, 2025 on its website for public consultation.

The policy seeks to promote cultural outreach and monetise content, while also upholding its public service mandate, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L. Murugan said in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

A structured industry consultation had been carried out with key stakeholders across the media ecosystem, including OTT (Over-The-Top) platforms, linear TV broadcasters, radio networks, telecom carriers, IPTV (Internet Protocol Television) operators, and content aggregators, Mr. Murugan said in response to questions by T.M. Selvaganapathi, Salem MP.

The policy aims to monetise content produced by Doordarshan and Akashvani; archived national and regional content; digital-first content published on Prasar Bharati's OTT platform; and live coverage of government events, festivals, and sports, among others.

It calls for "strategic collaborations" with domestic and international platforms to expand the reach of Prasar Bharati's content, and strengthen India's cultural presence globally.

RS passes Bill for 100% FDI in insurance sector

During debate, Opposition says Bill should be sent to a Select Committee of Parliament given its far-reaching impact; House passes Repealing and Amending Bill that annuls 71 obsolete laws

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

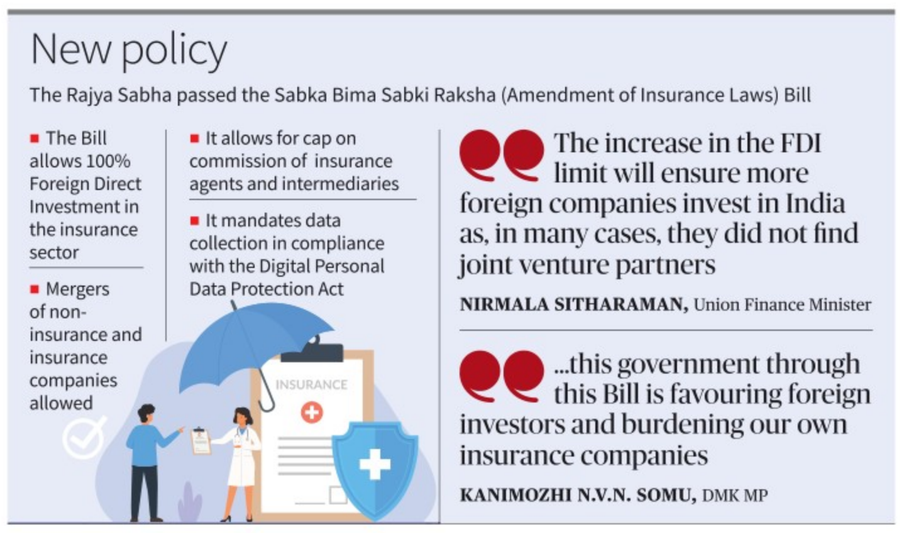
A day after the Lok Sabha passed the Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill, the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday passed the legislation which allows 100% foreign direct investment in the insurance sector.

The Upper House also cleared the Repealing and Amending Bill that repeals 71 obsolete laws. The Bill was also passed by the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

The structure of insurance regulation is very clearly laid out in the Bill, and the premium collected from Indians by foreign insurance companies will be kept in the country, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, replying to a debate on the Bill. Private sector insurance companies were participating in all welfare schemes of the Union government, and the Bill would ensure that foreign companies would also participate in social sector-related activities and government schemes, Ms. Sitharaman said. "We are not giving them any room to get away from that responsibility," she said.

The increase in the FDI limit to 100% would ensure more foreign companies invest in India as, in many cases, they did not find joint venture partners for various reasons, she said. With more companies, the competition would increase, and premiums should drop, she said.

Earlier, during the debate, the Opposition demanded that the Bill be sent to a Select Committee of Parliament given the far-reaching impact it has on the insurance sector.


New policy
The Rajya Sabha passed the Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill
The Bill allows 100% Foreign Direct Investment in the insurance sector
Mergers of non-insurance and insurance companies allowed
It allows for cap on commission of insurance agents and intermediaries
It mandates data collection in compliance with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act
INSURANCE
"The increase in the FDI limit will ensure more foreign companies invest in India as, in many cases, they did not find joint venture partners"
NIRMALA SITHARAMAN, Union Finance Minister
"...this government through this Bill is favouring foreign investors and burdening our own insurance companies"
KANIMOZHI N.V.N. SOMU, DMK MP

'Threat to data privacy'
Initiating the debate, senior Congress MP Shaktisinh Gohil said the Bill posed a threat to data privacy as foreign companies would demand PAN and Aadhaar of their customers, which may lead to digital frauds. The Centre should learn from the experience of privatising the civil aviation sector, Mr. Gohil said. He demanded that the Bill be sent to a Select Committee.

Questioning the use of both Hindi and English in the name of the Bill, Saket Gokhale of the All India Trinamool Congress said the Bill opened the door to profit extraction by foreign companies.

A market share of $600 billion would go to foreign investors once the Bill was implemented, Kanimozhi N.V.N. Somu of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam said. "This is daylight robbery. The government should not squander opportunities to promote and strengthen its own PSUs (public sector undertakings), but this government through this Bill is favouring foreign investors and burdening our own insurance companies," Ms. Kanimozhi said.

The Rajya Sabha passed the Repealing and Amending Bill. The Bill would remove 71 outdated laws, correcting errors that had crept in during the law-making process, and removing discriminatory aspects of certain laws, Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said.

"We give priority to ease of living along with ease of doing business," he said. "These reforms are a step towards liberation from a colonial mindset," he added. It seeks to repeal Acts, including the Indian Tramways Act, 1886; the Levy Sugar Price Equalisation Fund Act, 1976; the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (Determination of Conditions of Service of Employees) Act, 1988; the General Clauses Act, 1897; the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908; and the Indian Succession Act, 1925.

Bill to replace MGNREGA faces criticism; TDP flags increased burden on State

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other Opposition MPs staging a protest against the Bill in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

The Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill, 2025, which seeks to replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), faced opposition both within and outside Parliament, even as the Lok Sabha began a debate on the Bill.

The government, ignoring the demands from the Opposition, has conveyed its intent to pass the Bill in the ongoing session of Parliament that concludes on Friday.

The Opposition in Parliament and activists outside criticised the new legislation for upending the demand-driven architecture of the MGNREGA, removing its universality, centralisation of decision making and increasing the financial burden on the State governments.

Both the Janata Dal (United) and the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) stood in unqualified support of the new legislation, while the Telugu Desam Party flagged the increased burden on the State government. TDP floor leader Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu said Andhra Pradesh was a revenue deficit State. "When we have to cough up 40% from the State to fund this scheme, we request that same amount of the support that has been extended for the last one-and-a-half years be continued so that the scheme can be implemented well," he said.

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam MP Kanimozhi pointed out that while the State government's share in Central taxes had been shrinking, the financial burden on the States was increasing. The new legislation split the expenditure on rural employment scheme between the Centre and the State at a ratio of 60:40 as opposed to 90:10 under the MGNREGA. Only a few States still retain the 90:10 ratio. She also objected to the Hindi nomenclature of the Bill. "This is not a 'Viksit Bharat' Bill but a 'vexed' Bill," she said, questioning why the Centre had not named any legislation in any languages other than Hindi and Sanskrit.

Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra said the word "guarantee" appeared 92 times in the Bill, but if the fine print was read, it did not guarantee anything, since the Centre gets to fix the budget and also notify the areas where the scheme would be implemented. Kodikunnil Suresh of the Congress said the draft legislation was anti-women, pointing out that in States such as Kerala, women constituted 90% of the MGNREGA workforce. "Many of these women are sole breadwinners for their families," he said. Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will reply to the debate on Thursday.

The NREGA Sangharsh Morcha held a press conference here. CPI leader Annie Raja recalled the extensive consultations behind the 2005 Act. "MGNREGA was bottom-up; this Bill imposes a top-down approach. The Centre will decide where and when work happens," she said, adding that shifts could extend to 12 hours.

Activist and politician Yogendra Yadav announced nation-wide protests from December 19.

Harvard economist backs simultaneous polls, flags challenges

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Gita Gopinath

Holding simultaneous elections to legislatures at the State and Union levels will be a "positive step" from an economic standpoint, according to Harvard economist Gita Gopinath, a former Chief Economist and First Deputy Managing Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF). However, she cautioned that the implementation of the proposed reform will require careful planning to address logistical complexities, according to sources.

Ms. Gopinath was briefing the Parliamentary Joint Committee reviewing the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, which aims to introduce simultaneous elections. The panel also met Sanjeev Sanyal, a member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, who backed simultaneous elections.

'Could spur investment'
In a written submission to the panel, Ms. Gopinath reportedly said that synchronising the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections could reduce prolonged periods of policy uncertainty and spur economic activity.

"International research shows that pre-election uncertainty slows investment. In India, this is compounded by the Model Code of Conduct, which freezes new projects during staggered polls," she noted. States that hold simultaneous elections had recorded stronger post-election growth, she said.

The economist argued that fewer election cycles could shift public spending towards long-term infrastructure projects. Synchronisation, she said, could help governments prioritise infrastructure, boosting growth prospects.

Uncertain cost impact
Noting that the synchronised elections could generate efficiency and gains, she warned that international experience, notably Indonesia's 2024 election, underscored the risks of fully simultaneous polls. "Indonesia faced record spending, heavy logistical pressures and unusually high staffing needs, prompting its Constitutional Court to partially separate elections from 2029," she said.

While India's administrative strengths may mitigate some challenges, the net cost impact remains uncertain.

Arguing on similar lines, Mr. Sanyal said that simultaneous elections would reduce expenditure, adding that is not the primary reason to bring in this reform.

The staggered elections impose "significant economic costs due to repeated disruptions in policy continuity", he said.

He said that synchronised polls could enhance governmental stability, thereby strengthening long-term decision-making and policy planning.

National Herald order should be a warning against misuse of Central agencies: Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Party reaction: Congress leaders Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Mallikarjun Kharge at a press conference. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah after a court declined to take cognisance of the report filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the *National Herald* case.

"I want to say that after this judgment, Modi*ji* and Shah should resign because the court decision is like a slap on their face. They should give resignation as they should not harass people like this," Mr. Kharge said at a press conference. Party leaders K.C. Venugopal, Abhishek Singhvi, Jairam Ramesh, and Pawan Khera were present.

"They should know that if they do such things, people will not tolerate it and will not sit quiet, and they will face insult from people," he said.

He said the verdict should serve as a warning to the Prime Minister and the Home Minister against the alleged misuse of Central investigating agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation and the ED to target opponents.

The Congress accused the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government of weaponising the ED and misusing the Prevention of Money Laundering Act to intimidate the Opposition. Mr. Kharge alleged that the agency had been used to engineer defections of MPs and to facilitate the formation of governments in several States.

On the party's political response, Mr. Kharge said, "We have been fighting on the streets, in Parliament, outside it, and will continue to do it and teach them a lesson."

'Case of vendetta'
Explaining the court's order, senior Supreme Court advocate and Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi said that "law has spoken louder than noise". Describing the case as "long on rhetoric and short on legs", he said it was a clear instance of political vendetta and harassment.

Mr. Singhvi pointed out that between 2014 and 2021, there were written notes by both the CBI and the ED stating that no predicate offence was made out in the complaint filed by former MP Subramanian Swamy. Despite this, he said, the ED proceeded to file an Enforcement Case Information Report in June 2021, allegedly on instructions from the top. The court, he added, refused to take cognisance at the threshold stage, holding that even the minimum legal requirements under the PMLA were not satisfied.

Mr. Singhvi noted that between 2021 and 2025, the ED questioned senior Congress leaders, for nearly 90 hours, with Rahul Gandhi alone being questioned for over 50 hours, yet no incriminating material emerged.

Mr. Venugopal said the party cadre was deeply angered by what he described as sustained harassment by the BJP government. "We will demonstrate our strength across India," he said.

Refer job scheme Bill to House panel: Congress MP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Saptagiri Ulaka, the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, on Wednesday urged Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to refer the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill, 2025 to the committee for a detailed scrutiny.

In a letter, he said the Bill introduced "far-reaching changes" to the framework governing rural employment and livelihood support. "Standing committees are not procedural formalities; they are integral to Parliament's legislative function," he wrote, expressing "deep concern" over the prospect of the Bill being processed without such examination.

Vaishnaw says anti-collision system installed on 2,000 km of rail network

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday informed the Lok Sabha that the indigenous anti-collision Kavach safety system had been fully commissioned on over 2,000 km of the rail network.

In a reply during Question Hour, Mr. Vaishnaw said that Kavach was a highly complex Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system comprising five major components. It required continuous laying of optical fibre cable (OFC) along tracks and the installation of telecom towers.

The Minister said the Railways had so far laid 7,129 km of OFC, installed 860 telecom towers, connected 767 stations to data centres, deployed track-side equipment along 3,413 km, and equipped 4,154 locomotives with the system. "Complete commissioning has crossed 2,000 km," he said, adding that the pace of work was "very fast".

The Minister said around 40,000 technicians and operators had been trained, underlining that Kavach was a "totally new and very complex" system.

On rail accidents
Responding to a supplementary by DMK MP Kalanidhi Veeraswamy on rail accidents, Mr. Vaishnaw said consequential accidents had fallen by nearly 90% – from 135 in 2014 to 11 now.

In response to another supplementary question, he said redeveloping railway stations without disrupting train services was a "complex task".

He noted that several countries suspended rail operations for three to four years during station redevelopment. "In India, where 7.5 crore passengers travel by train, this is simply not possible," Mr. Vaishnaw said.

He said stations were being upgraded under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, which adopts a long-term, phased approach based on master plans.

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(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)
WBSETCL
Registered Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN: U40101WB2007SGC113474 • web: www.wbsetcl.in
NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/315 MVA Trf./25-26/29 Date: 18.12.2025
E-Tender is invited for procurement of **400/220/33 kV, 315 MVA Auto Transformers**. Bid documents can be downloaded from **18.12.2025, 03:00 P.M.** and bids shall be submitted online up to **04:00 P.M., 14.01.2026**. ICA- T25900(3)/2025
Visit the following websites - www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbsetcl.in for details.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING
(Training wing)
Alandur Road, TVK. Industrial Estate Guindy, Chennai- 600 032.
Ref.No.41801/Pur1/2025 **NOTICE INVITING TENDER** Dt : 16.12.2025
Online Tenders in Two - Cover system are invited for the Procurement of Machineries and Equipment for Various Government Industrial Training Institutes spread across the state of Tamil Nadu.
For further details, Terms & Conditions please visit Tamil Nadu e-procurement portal **https://tntenders.gov.in.** Tender Document can be downloaded from the web portal at free of cost from the date as mentioned below.

Sl. No	Tender Description & Reference No.	Tender Document Download Start Date & Time	Bid submission closing Date & Time
1	Procurement of Machineries and Equipment 41801/Pur.1/2025	18.12.2025 at 3.30 PM	20.01.2026 at 11.00 AM
2	Procurement of Machineries and Equipment 41802/Pur.1/2025	18.12.2025 at 3.30 PM	02.01.2026 at 11.00 AM
3	Procurement of Machineries and Equipment 41803/Pur.1/2025	18.12.2025 at 3.30 PM	02.01.2026 at 11.00 AM
4	Procurement of Machineries and Equipment 41804/Pur.1/2025	18.12.2025 at 3.30 PM	02.01.2026 at 11.00 AM

DIPR/ 6654 /TENDER/2025
Additional Director (ATS)
(Tender Inviting Authority)

INBRIEF

ICG Ship *Sarthak* makes first port call at Iran's Chabahar

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Ship *Sarthak*, an offshore patrol vessel, entered the Chabahar port in Iran on December 16 for a four-day visit till December 19. According to the Defence Ministry, the port call, marking the first-ever visit of an Indian Coast Guard ship to Chabahar, underscored India's growing maritime engagement in the region and its ability to support secure supply lines to Afghanistan and Central Asia. The visit is aligned with India's SAGAR and MAHASAGAR vision of fostering secure and inclusive maritime engagements. ICG Ship *Sarthak* will engage in a range of professional and community-oriented activities.

SC asks MCD to suspend toll booths at Delhi's entry points

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to consider temporarily suspending the operation of its nine toll booths till the air quality index (AQI) improves in the National Capital Region (NCR). A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant asked the municipal body to take a decision in a week. In a separate direction, the court modified its August 12 order lifting restrictions on end-of-life vehicles from plying the capital's roads. The court directed that no coercive steps would be taken against the owners of BS IV and newer models of petrol and diesel vehicles over 15 and 10 years old, respectively.

SC transfers *suo motu* case on R.G. Kar rape to Calcutta HC

The Supreme Court has transferred the *suo motu* case registered after the brutal rape of a trainee doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in West Bengal to the Calcutta High Court for further monitoring and directions. A Bench of Justices M.M. Sundresh and Satish Chandra Sharma requested the Chief Justice of the High Court to constitute an appropriate Division Bench to hear the petitions. The Bench directed the Supreme Court Registry to provide a copy of the CBI status report to the father of the victim. The top court declined Senior Advocate Karuna Nundy's (appearing for the parents of the victim) plea to transfer the case to the Delhi High Court.

Indian Army leaves for Desert Cyclone-II military exercise

An Indian Army contingent has departed for the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to participate in the second edition of the India-UAE Joint Military Exercise DESERT CYCLONE-II, scheduled to be held at Abu Dhabi from December 18 to 30. According to the Defence Ministry, the Indian contingent comprised 45 personnel, primarily drawn from a battalion of the Mechanised Infantry Regiment. The UAE Land Forces will be represented by a contingent of similar strength from the 53 Mechanised Infantry Battalion. Aim of the exercise is to enhance interoperability and further strengthen defence cooperation between the Indian Army and the UAE Land Forces.

NMC to add prescription writing in MBBS syllabus

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has instructed all medical colleges to set up subcommittees for monitoring prescription practices and also include in the curriculum the importance of writing legible and clear prescriptions.

In a communication sent on December 15 to the Secretaries and Principal Secretaries of the Health departments of all States and Union Territories and directors and deans of all medical institutions under it, the NMC said the directive was based on the orders of the Punjab and Haryana High Court issued on August 27. The court directed the NMC to mandate training on clear and legible prescriptions writing in medical curricula across the country.

The subcommittee shall develop a structured plan for systematic appraisal of prescriptions to assess compliance with applicable regulations and guidelines. It will review and analyse prescription patterns, identify deviations, and recommend corrective measures for improving adherence.

Convicted Minister in Maharashtra loses all portfolios, to appeal

Sessions court upholds his two-year sentence in 1995 housing scam case; Ajit Pawar given charge of Sports, Youth Welfare, Minorities, and Aukaf

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

On a day when a Nashik court upheld the conviction of Maharashtra Minister and NCP leader Manikrao Kokate, Maharashtra Governor Acharya Devvrat accepted Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' recommendation to take away all the portfolios from him.

The portfolios that he held – Sports and Youth Welfare, Minorities Development and Aukaf – have been allocated to Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

Mr. Kokate has moved the Bombay High Court challenging his conviction and two-year jail term in a 30-year-old cheating and forgery case linked to a housing scheme for the economically weaker section (EWS). The plea was mentioned on Wednesday before Justice R.N. Laddha for urgent hearing, hours after a Nashik court upheld his conviction and issued an arrest warrant, escalating the risk of Mr. Kokate losing his Cabinet berth and Assembly seat.

Maharashtra Minister Manikrao Kokate has been convicted in a cheating and forgery case linked to a housing scheme. FILE PHOTO

Mr. Kokate is currently admitted to Lilavati Hospital in Mumbai as he has taken ill, his advocate told *The Hindu*.

On Tuesday, Additional Sessions Judge P.M. Badar of the Nashik District and Sessions Court confirmed Mr. Kokate's conviction under Sections 420 (cheating), 465 (forgery), 468 (forgery for cheating) and 471 (using forged document) read with Section 34 IPC, while acquitting him of charges under Sections 467 and 474 IPC. The court directed the Magistrate to take steps for execution of the jail term. On Wednesday, an arrest warrant was issued against the Minister after he failed to appear in court.

Mr. Kokate and his brother Vijay were convicted for allegedly misrepresenting their income to obtain flats under the EWS quota in Nashik.

M.P. govt. forms panel to investigate HIV infection case

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

The children tested positive between January and May, but the case came to light only on Tuesday

The Madhya Pradesh government has formed a committee to investigate the case of six children getting infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), allegedly from contaminated blood transfusions at the Satna district hospital and other facilities in the State.

As per an order issued by Tarun Rathi, Commissioner, Public Health and Medical Education Department, on Tuesday, the six-member panel has been asked to submit a detailed report within seven days. The committee will be headed by Dr. Satya Awadhiya, Regional Director of the department's Rewa Division.

The six children, aged between three and 15 and suffering from thalassaemia, tested positive for the virus between January and May, according to officials. However, the matter came to light only on Tuesday.

Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla, who also holds the Health portfolio, said the children are being treated at the Integrated Counselling and Testing Centre under the guidance of Central government agencies and that a State-level committee has been formed to probe the matter and trace the donors.

"The children suffering from thalassaemia are given blood two to three times in a month. It's not necessary that the blood is given from one particular centre. It is being told that they [some children] had also visited Jabalpur so it could have happened there or at some private centres," Mr. Shukla said, speaking to the media.

Earlier, Satna Collector Satish Kumar S. said an internal investigation at the hospital level has also been launched into the matter.

Dr. Manoj Shukla, the chief medical and health officer in-charge and civil surgeon of the district hospital, said he has issued a show cause notice to the nodal officer of the National AIDS Control Organisation as the matter was not brought to his attention.

'Modern, traditional medicine will be integrated in phases'

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

India has been gradually moving towards a more integrated and collaborative approach between modern and traditional systems of medicine, rather than forcing a sudden or complete merger, according to AYUSH Secretary Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha.

The top official from the Union Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy, known as AYUSH, was speaking exclusively to *The Hindu* about the World Health Organization (WHO)'s second global summit on traditional medicine, jointly organised with the Government of India.

The summit started on Wednesday, bringing together practitioners from more than 100 countries.

Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha

Discussing the integration of therapies, the Secretary said that the emphasis is on a rational approach, where each system contributes according to its strengths.

"The summit is an opportunity to engage constructively with the global community on strengthening integration of traditional medicine. A key focus will be on sharing India's experience in institutional frameworks for education and service delivery across various systems," he said.

Pilot bodies complain to House panel on 'corruption' in DGCA and Ministry

Sobhana K. Nair
Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Pilot bodies have alleged deep-rooted corruption in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the Ministry of Civil Aviation before the parliamentary panel that met to discuss the operational meltdown at IndiGo since early December, which led to the cancellation of over 5,000 flights affecting at least 12.5 lakh passengers.

The department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture chaired by Sanjay K. Jha called a meeting to review the impact of revised rest and duty norms for pilots that triggered the large-scale flight cancellations because of gaps in planning adequate crew.

Officials of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, DGCA, senior executives of IndiGo, including its Chief Operations Officer Isidre Porqueras, and Senior Vice President (Flight Operations), Ashim Mitra, and various pilot associations such as Airlines Pilots Association India (ALPA-I), Indian Pilots Guild (IPG) and Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) were present.

The panel met to discuss the recent operational meltdown at IndiGo, that led to large-scale flight cancellations.

The meeting lasted nearly three hours.

During the meeting, it is learnt that ALPA's president Captain Sam Thomas said there was "corruption at every level" in the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the DGCA following which members of the panel asked them to furnish proof.

Regulatory scrutiny

Questions have been raised on how the regulator granted IndiGo permission to deploy 10% more flights in the winter schedule and whether it assessed the airline's preparedness for implementing the new duty norms.

The pilot bodies also discussed the exacting conditions under which pilots have to perform their flying duties and how airlines have been misinterpreting rules in their own favour, sources said.

IndiGo reiterated that the large flight cancellations were due to a "combination of factors", which it has explained in its earlier statements as minor technical glitches, winter schedule changes, adverse weather, and aviation system congestion as well as implementation of new rest and duty norms for pilots.

The DGCA was asked whether it had consulted all sides before implementing the norms, to which it answered in the affirmative and added that airlines were also granted selective exemptions on the norms that came into effect from November 1 to make it easier for them to proceed with their implementation.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation informed the panel members that an enquiry was being conducted into IndiGo's operational collapse and a four-member committee was appointed to identify the underlying causes.

The parliamentary panel will be meeting again on the matter once the Aviation Ministry's inquiry is concluded.

TH CROSSWORD + 14668

(set by Arden)

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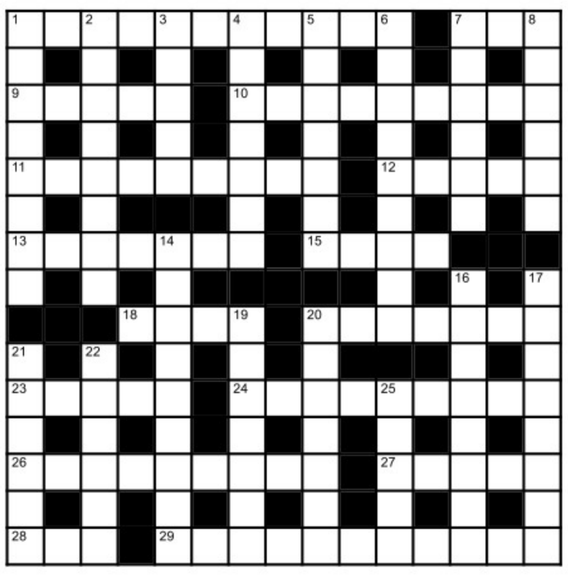
SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Revise possible action leading to clash (11)
7 Woman starts speaking of women (3)
9 So long for a gold-plated cube (5)
10 Move to permit one in ten, perhaps (2,7)
11 Psychological baggage of one pound - like accepting separate review (9)
12 Senseless when an invitation is rejected partly (5)
13 A pitch to remove nail polish (7)
15 Here and there - again they all end in paradise (4)
18 Crazy over knock out (4)
20 Indian army during regular patrols hides weapons (7)
23 Subject revised within a month (5)
24 Flyer's Irish, wearing old hat (9)
26 Changed mind to take part in club game (9)
27 Small part of golf course in New York (5)
28 Noise from God dispensing love (3)
29 Free to recall name - police department retains head (11)

Down

1 Indian politician repeatedly picks up Chinese grass (4-4)
2 Strives to save one pound as they go over people's heads (8)
3 French writer had no power to force people off their slumber (5)
4 One on either side - allowing me to raise a plant (7)
5 Stop self confession of an old-fashioned person (7)
6 New wine overhead shows bad quality (9)
7 Healer is a fake one (6)
8 Disappear after accompanying the Queen (6)
14 Nothing good about slight intrusion - it's a precarious situation (2,4,3)
16 It comes to grip with tragic ending of the poor and destitute (8)
17 Favourite looked sad to begin with (4-4)
19 It's highly inflammable - sleep over with hard hat, perhaps (7)
20 As nice as fantastic run through (7)
21 Can swing both ways in bar - stop it (6)
22 Agree music is uplifting - come again? (6)
25 Best opening line inside bar (5)

SUDOKU

	3		5				2	4
2			4		3	1	9	
1								
		9		5			7	
	8						1	
	7			6		9		
								3
	2	3	1		6			9
7	4				2		8	

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	9	4	8	5	1	2	3	6
8	2	3	6	4	7	5	1	9
5	6	1	3	9	2	4	8	7
2	4	7	1	3	5	9	6	8
9	5	8	2	7	6	3	4	1
1	3	6	4	8	9	7	5	2
4	7	5	9	1	8	6	2	3
6	8	9	5	2	3	1	7	4
3	1	2	7	6	4	8	9	5

FAITH

Maha Periyava's grace

When He manifested as Vamana, one among the 10 avatars, God appeared small. However, with His Viswaroopam, He measured the entire world with one foot, the celestial world with his second foot. This is the crux of the saying, "Small deity, big reach [fame]."

Kanchi Maha Periyava was diminutive in size. He was short and thin and did not possess a commanding visage. Kanchi Maha Periyava, hailed as a god in Kaliyug, appeared on earth to help mankind. Born under the Anusha star on May 20, 1894, as Swaminathan in Villupuram district in Tamil Nadu, he became the 68th Pontiff of the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam at 13 years and conferred the name of Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati Swamigal. Living a 100 years, he brought glory to the Kanchi Math and exemplified Sanatana Dharma, said P. Swaminathan.

Maha Periyava set an example by walking the path of dharma. He undertook padayatra extensively, across the country, to spread the message of bhakti as a way to reach God. Moved by the plight of the indigent, he did everything in his power to help them. There have been many occasions when the rich and the influential had to wait for a week for his appointment, while ordinary, poor people were given immediate access: he would listen to their troubles, pray for them, offer them his blessings and send them away with prasad. Devotees across the world celebrate his birth star, Anusham, with Anusha puja. The saint attained samadhi in 1994, but his devotees continue to pray to him at his resting place in Kanchipuram, seeking his divine power to resolve their everyday problems and guide them towards God.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	84,560	-0.14
US Dollar	90.38	0.60
Brent oil	59.88	1.49

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2232.50	-15.40
Adani Ports	1486.30	-12.70
Apollo Hosp	6921.50	-130.00
Asian Paints	2785.70	-5.20
Axis Bank	1224.70	5.10
Bajaj Auto	8895.00	-113.00
Bajaj Finserv	2021.20	-14.00
Bajaj Finance	999.60	1.20
Bharat Elec	385.60	-2.40
Bharti Airtel	2108.00	6.00
Cipla	1496.90	-2.70
Coal India	384.75	3.15
Dr Reddys Lab	1272.00	-4.90
Hindustan Unilever	40.20	0.00
Eicher Motors	7134.50	73.00
Eternal Ltd.	284.45	0.00
Grasim Ind	2806.60	7.50
HCL Tech	1655.00	3.30
HDFC Bank	984.00	-10.30
HDFC Life	753.50	-10.85
Hindalco	848.80	11.65
Hind Unilever	2275.60	-5.50
ICICI Bank	1352.40	-13.60
IntGlobeAvi	4980.50	6.50
Infosys	1602.00	9.10
ITC	399.80	-1.90
Jio Financial Servic-es Ltd.	293.15	-2.10
JSW Steel	1079.30	-3.30
Kotak Bank	2173.20	-9.20
L&T	4062.40	-1.40
M&M	3612.80	-8.20
Maruti Suzuki	16398.00	44.00
Max Healthcare	1031.10	-41.90
NestleIndia	1234.60	-6.00
NTPC	321.25	0.25
ONGC	232.91	0.70
PowerGrid Corp	261.10	0.75
Reliance Ind	1544.40	2.10
SBI Life	2010.20	-25.80
State Bank	975.85	14.70
Shriram Finance Ltd.	864.20	15.80
Sun Pharma	1792.90	11.60
TataConsumerPro-duct	1179.80	9.90
Tata Steel	170.34	0.51
TCS	3217.80	12.70
Tech Mahindra	1579.40	1.20
Titan	3907.90	-21.60
Tata Motors PV	346.35	0.90
Trent Ltd.	4045.20	-63.50
UltraTech Cement	11540.00	12.00
Wipro	261.14	1.92

BoB underwrites loan facility to ONGC unit

Bank of Baroda has underwritten a $500 million 5-year foreign currency term loan facility to OVL Overseas IFSC Ltd. (OOIL), a GIFT City registered wholly owned subsidiary of ONGC Videsh Ltd.

SEBI reviews decades' old brokerage norms

Decides to cut maximum expense ratio by up to 15 bps; cap on brokerage segment cut to 6 bps for cash market, 2 bps on derivative transactions

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Wednesday revised the total expense ratio charged by mutual funds (MFs), reviewed the two-decade-old brokerage regulations, and proposed to discuss public comments on the high-level committee (HLC) regarding its report on conflict of interest.

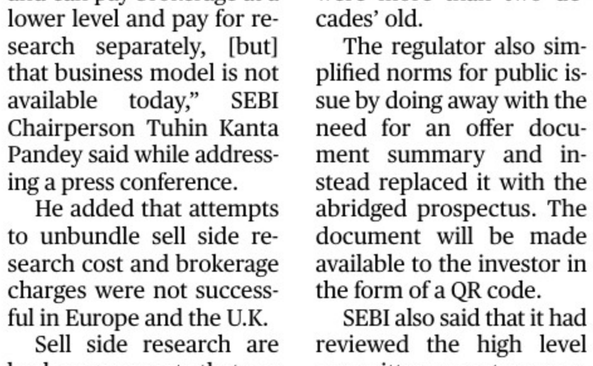
The markets regulator, in its board meeting, also announced measures for simplification of IPO documents for the benefit of investors, and allowed credit rating agencies (CRAs) to carry out ratings for unlisted debt instruments.

SEBI decided to cut the maximum expense ratio charged on investors by up to 15 basis points as part of a comprehensive review of the MF regulations.

The changes have been applied on slabs determined by the assets under management of the mutual funds.

According to the new regulations, expense ratio will now be called 'Base Expense Ratio' (BER), which will exclude stamp duty, GST, and STT among other levies. The total exchange ratio will be a sum of BER, brokerage, regulatory levies and statutory levies.

The cap on brokerage segment has now been cut to 6 bps for cash market and 2 bps on derivative transactions. In the consultation paper on MF regulations, the regulator proposed that the cash market brokerage may be capped at 2 bps and derivatives at 1 bps. One bps is one hundredth of a percentage.



System reboot: SEBI also revamped the stock brokers' regulations to simplify language, updating contemporary changes. REUTERS

In line with the proposals, the additional exit load of 5 bps, usually charged in the event of a premature redemption, has been completely done away with. "It was very clearly brought to our notice that the sell side research is a bundled cost. We were trying to propose that they can unbundle it and can pay brokerage at a lower level and pay for research separately, [but] that business model is not available today," SEBI Chairperson Tuhin Kanta Pandey said while addressing a press conference.

He added that attempts to unbundle sell side research cost and brokerage charges were not successful in Europe and the U.K.

Sell side research are brokerage reports that are given by securities brokerage companies. Brokerage includes cost for research and the brokerage commission.

The mutual fund regulation reviews also included simplification of old rules, reorganisation of roles and responsibilities of AMCs, and reorganisation of provisions related to the prudential investment limits and valuation of securities.

SEBI also revamped the stock brokers regulations to simplify language, updating contemporary changes among other changes. Both mutual fund and brokerage regulations were more than two decades' old.

The regulator also simplified norms for public issue by doing away with the need for an offer document summary and instead replaced it with the abridged prospectus. The document will be made available to the investor in the form of a QR code.

SEBI also said that it had reviewed the high level committee report on conflict of interest.

Microfinance loan stress at four-quarter low as of September 2025: Sa-Dhan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The quality of microfinance loans has been improving since December 2024, says the report

The quality of microfinance loans has been improving since December 2024, with the ratio of delinquencies falling steadily since then and coming in at a four-quarter low in the September 2025 quarter, according to the latest Quarterly Microfinance Report by microfinance self-regulatory body Sa-Dhan.

For example, the ratio of loans outstanding more than 90 days after their due date has fallen to 3.27% in the quarter-ended September 2025 from 4% in the December 2024 quarter. "The microfinance sector has shown steady improvement since December 2024, signalling the start of its recovery after an extended period of pandemic-induced financial stress," the report said.

Loan stress is categorised into several buckets and is measured in terms of the percentage of the Portfolio at Risk (PAR) in each of these stress buckets. For example, the share of the overall portfolio that is more than 180 days past due is denoted as PAR 180+. The report pointed out that each of the stress buckets had shown improvement, except the PAR 180+. "The elevated levels in this category remain largely a legacy issue carried forward from the pandemic and the portfolio at the end of 2023 and early 2024," the report said. "This was the period when the sector also reflected an issue of higher leverage."

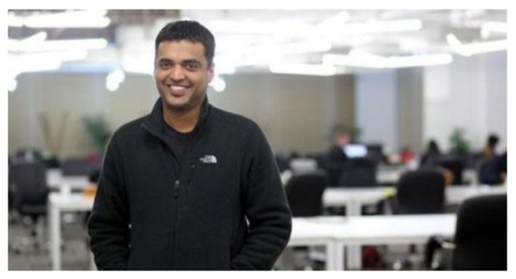
However, it pointed out that the improved performance of more current buckets – such as PAR 30+, PAR 60+, and PAR 90+ – shows that recent loans being given have been of higher quality and that the industry's self-corrective measures have begun to show themselves in the numbers.

The PAR 30+ figure for the microfinance industry fell from 7.15% in the quarter-ended December 2024 to 5.27% as of September 2025. Similarly, the PAR 60+ figure fell from 5.55% to 4.28% over the same period. The PAR 90+ figure fell from 4% to 3.27%.

"The implementation of stricter underwriting standards and other preventive measures has contributed to a gradual improvement in overall portfolio quality," the report said. "Analysing the trend over the past financial year, it's evident that the loans originated within the last year are performing better."

It added that the overall PAR values are expected to further improve and could return to pre-2024 levels by the end of the third quarter of 2025-26.

INBRIEF



Eternal's Deepinder Goyal tops Hurun India list

At a valuation of ₹3.2 lakh crore, Deepinder Goyal of Eternal (formerly Zomato Ltd.) has topped the list of self-made entrepreneur in the IDFC FIRST Private & Hurun India's Top 200 Self-made Entrepreneurs of the Millennia 2025. Eternal's valuation has gone up by 27% from last year's report. Radhakishan Damani of Avenue Supermarts (DMart), last year's No. 1, has slipped to the second place with a valuation of ₹3 lakh crore, down 13% from last year.

TRAI wants insurers to switch to 1600 series by Feb. 15

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has directed all entities regulated by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to adopt '1600' series numbers by February 15, 2026, for making service and transactional calls to the consumers. The mandate is being issued in consultation with IRDAI and the move is aimed at enhancing consumer trust, curbing spam and preventing fraudulent activities perpetrated via voice calls.

Rupee recovers 55 paise to close at 90.38 against dollar

The rupee recovered 55 paise from its all-time low level to close at 90.38 against the U.S. dollar after a volatile trade on Wednesday, amid suspected aggressive central bank intervention. Analysts said the rupee's recent fall against the U.S. dollar was primarily driven by external factors, not domestic economic weakness, and the high volatility in the forex market is expected to persist amid shifting economic and geopolitical cues. PTI

India, Oman to sign free trade pact today: Goyal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Confirming India and Oman will be signing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on Thursday, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said the FTA offers "immense opportunities" in a number of sectors, including textiles, footwear, automobiles, gems and jewellery, renewable energy, and auto components.

Speaking at the India-Oman Business Forum in Muscat, Mr. Goyal added India stood to gain in terms of the access Oman provides to markets such as the GCC, eastern Europe, central Asia, and Africa.

India and Oman began talks on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in 2023. Mr. Goyal said he and his Omani counterpart would sign the FTA in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

"The sky is the limit in terms of potential, particularly with Oman opening the doors as a gateway to the Gulf Cooperation Council region, eastern Europe, central Asia, and to Africa," said Mr. Goyal.

Piyush Goyal

He added there were four broad areas in which the two countries can collaborate with each other.

Energy transition

"One is in the energy transition that both are committed to, whether it's renewable sources of energy, battery storage, green hydrogen, that whole ecosystem can open up between Oman and India," he said.

The second area was infrastructure, multi-modal logistics and export warehouses.

"Another area would be food security. We can help Oman ensure food security," he said, adding "there was a lot of potential in this area."

The fourth area, which India and Oman could work together, was to develop startup ecosystems.

"The startups can engage with each other, build bridges, work on deep tech or smarter ways to work on logistics software services, artificial intelligence, there is tremendous potential to leverage this area as a hub," Mr. Goyal said.

Japan's MUFG said to invest over $4 bn for Shriram Finance stake

Reuters
NEW DELHI/TOKYO

Japan's MitsubishiUFJ Financial Group (MUFG) is set to invest more than $4 billion for a roughly 20% stake in Indian non-bank financial company Shriram Finance, with the deal to be closed on Friday, two people with knowledge of the matter said.

MUFG declined to comment, while Shriram Finance did not respond to *Reuters*' queries.

A branch of MUFG in Tokyo.

It would be the latest in a string of overseas expansion deals by Japanese banks, which are looking for stronger growth than is available in a domestic market where the population is ageing and declining. India has become a popular destination due to its fast-growing economy.

Shriram Finance is one of India's biggest retail non-banking financial entities with assets under management at ₹2.8 trillion or $31 billion as of September.

Mizuho to buy up to $523 million stake in Avendus from KKR

Reuters
TOKYO

Japan's Mizuho Securities said it will buy a majority stake in India's investment bank Avendus from U.S. investment firm KKR for up to ¥81 billion ($523 million).

The buyout adds to Japanese financial institutions' growing footprint in India, where a fast-growing economy has made it an attractive target for Japanese firms facing an ageing and shrinking population at home.

Mizuho Securities, part of Japan's third-largest banking group, Mizuho Financial Group, said it will buy 61.6% to 78.3% of Avendus shares and make the bank a consolidated subsidiary.

Mizuho has been fielding an increasing number of enquiries from banking clients on Indian expansion, CEO Masahiro Kihara told the press in Tokyo.

Mizuho's signboard is pictured in Tokyo, Japan.

The acquisition will strengthen Mizuho's ability to collaborate across regions, including with U.S. M&A adviser Greenhil, Mr. Kihara also said.

"Better cross-regional collaboration has been one of the great things about the Greenhill acquisition. On the investment banking side we thought India was a missing piece," he said.

Avendus CEO Gaurav Deepak said he expects to expand hiring as a result of the partnership.

Tata Chemicals' NCD issue nets ₹1,500 cr.

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Tata Chemicals Ltd on Wednesday said it has raised ₹1,500 crore through the allotment of non-convertible debentures (NCDs) on a private placement basis.

The company has allotted 1,50,000 listed, unsecured, rated, redeemable, taxable, non-cumulative non-convertible debentures, having a face value of ₹1 lakh each, for cash, it said in a regulatory filing.

The NCDs have a tenure of two years and 364 days, and carry a fixed rate coupon of 7.06%, Tata Chemicals said. The debentures have been issued to identified investors based on multiple yield allotment methods, it added.

The NCDs will be listed on the Debt Segment of the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. (NSE).

The allotment was approved by the internal committee.

काशी हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय
BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY
An Institution of National Importance established by an Act of Parliament
BHU invites EOI from eligible hospitals for empanelment. For details, refer detailed EOI document downloadable from BHU website - www.bhu.ac.in/Site/tenderlist

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Kagitha Nagar, Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy Dist, Tamil Nadu.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Description of work	Due date
252613 006558	Procurement of Sulphuric Acid for Unit-I & II.	22.12.2025
252613 006575	Procurement of Maize based Native Starch (In Jumbo Bags) for Unit-I.	31.12.2025
252623 003681	Procurement of Native Starch to meet six months requirement (Approx) of Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit-II.	02.01.2026

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. For further details, please visit websites : www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
DIPR/6684/Tender/2025 TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

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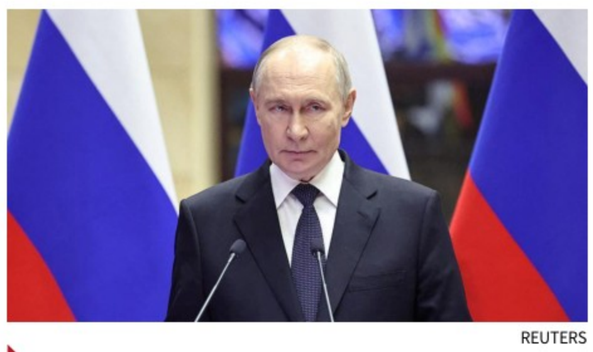
(An Autonomous Institute under Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India)
Paschim Boragaon, Garchuk, Guwahati-781035
Advt. No. 574 Date :18.12.2025
RECRUITMENT NOTICE
Applications are invited for the position of Post-Doctoral Fellow (PDF) under Physical Sciences Divisions, IASST.
For advertisement, application submission and other details, please visit the Institute's website:
https://iasst.gov.in/
Registrar, IASST

THE HINDU GROUP
THE HINDU REWIND 2025 TRIVIA QUIZ
DAY 13
1. Under India's revised GST slab, products like tobacco, pan masala, and sugary fizzy drinks attract the highest 40% tax. These are classified as what type of goods?
2. Morocco recently became the 60th country to ratify which global agreement aimed at protecting biodiversity in international waters, paving the way for it to take effect in 2026?
3. Which actor has been cast to play Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in the upcoming biopic Kalam: The Missile Man of India, announced at Cannes 2025?
*T&C apply.
Scan QR code or visit bit.ly/Rewind2024TriviaQuiz take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.
Answer to yesterday's quiz: 1. Australia 2. Dhanushkodi 3. Leptospirosis
Yesterday's Winners:
1. Manzoor Ahmed, Hyderabad | 2. Meghana.G, Bengaluru | 3. Ramesh Mallya, Mumbai

MOSCOW

Putin says Russia will take more land in Ukraine if peace talks fail



REUTERS

Russian President Vladimir Putin warned on Wednesday that Moscow will seek to extend its gains in Ukraine if Kyiv and its Western allies reject the Kremlin's demands in peace talks. His statement follows several rounds of talks between Ukrainian, American and European officials on a U.S.-drafted peace plan. AP

TOKYO

Amid row, PM Takaichi says Japan is 'always open' to talks with China

AP

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said on Wednesday she is "always open" to dialogue with China despite a diplomatic row between Tokyo and Beijing over comments she made on Taiwan. "China is an important neighbour for Japan, and we need to build constructive and stable relationships," Ms. Takaichi said. AFP

WASHINGTON

U.S. expands travel bans, targets 20 nations and Palestinian Authority

AFP

The Trump administration has expanded its travel ban and restrictions to 20 additional nations as well as the Palestinian Authority to "protect U.S. national security". It imposed partial restrictions on 15 countries. Full restrictions were imposed for nationals of Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, South Sudan, and Syria. PTI

TAIPEI

Taipei says Chinese aircraft carrier sailed through Taiwanese waters

AP

China's newest and most advanced aircraft carrier, the *Fujian*, sailed through the Taiwan Strait on Tuesday, Taiwan's Defence Ministry said. Taiwan, which Beijing views as its territory, reports daily Chinese military activity around the island in what Taipei views as a pressure campaign against the democratic government. REUTERS

U.S. labels Venezuela govt. a 'terrorist' regime, orders blockade of oil tankers

Donald Trump's announcement came days after the U.S. seized a tanker carrying Venezuelan crude off its coast, tightening its stranglehold over Maduro's regime; crude sales represent more than 90% of the South American country's export income

Stanly Johny

U.S. President Donald Trump has ordered "a total and complete blockade" of all sanctioned oil tankers entering and leaving Venezuela, and labelled the government of President Nicolas Maduro "a foreign terrorist organisation", sharply escalating his pressure campaign against the South American nation.

In a social media post, Mr. Trump said the "the illegitimate Maduro regime is using oil" from the fields stolen from the U.S., "to finance themselves".

"For the theft of our assets, and many other reasons, including terrorism, drug smuggling, and human trafficking, the Venezuelan regime has been designated a foreign terrorist organization," wrote Mr. Trump. "Therefore, today, I am ordering a total and complete blockade of all sanctioned oil tankers going into, and out of, Venezuela."

Trump administration's decision to target the tankers is expected to enhance economic pressure on Nicolas Maduro's regime. REUTERS

Mr. Trump's announcement came days after the U.S. seized a tanker carrying Venezuelan crude off its coast, tightening its stranglehold over the Maduro regime. The U.S. has already carried out dozens of air strikes in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific waters on boats which it said were carrying drugs. The U.S. is also building up military presence around Venezuela, triggering speculations that it could start a new bombing campaign inside the country.

The U.S. says the Maduro regime is closely tied to a drug cartel, without providing any evidence.

Oil blockade 'irrational'

When the U.S. seized the tanker, Mr. Maduro showed defiance and accused Washington of naval piracy. "We have to be like warriors, with one eye peeled and the other as well," he said.

On Wednesday, in response to the blockade, the Venezuelan government said in a statement: "The President of the United States is trying in an absolutely irrational manner to impose a supposed military naval blockade on Venezuela to steal the riches of our homeland. Venezuela will never go back to being a colony of the empire, nor any other foreign power."

But the Trump administration's decision to target the tankers is expected to enhance the economic pressure on the already embattled regime of Mr. Maduro. Crude sales represent more than 90% of Venezuela's export income. Venezuela is moving more than 600,000 barrels of oil daily, but the U.S. blockade could paralyse the tanker traffic which in turn would further squeeze the government's finances.

'No proof of Bondi terrorists' training in the Philippines'

Agence France-Presse
MANILA

The Philippines said on Wednesday there was no evidence that the country was being used for terrorist training, a day after it was revealed the men behind Australia's Bondi Beach mass shooting had spent time on a southern island known for Islamist insurgencies.

"(President Ferdinand Marcos) strongly rejects the sweeping statement and the misleading characterisation of the Philippines as the ISIS training hotspot," Presidential spokeswoman Claire Castro said at a press briefing.

"No evidence has been presented to support claims that the country was used for terrorist training," she added. "There is no validated report or confirmation that individuals involved in the Bondi Beach incident received any form of training in the Philippines."

On Tuesday, the country's immigration office confirmed that Sajid Akram and his son Naveed, who killed 15 people and wounded dozens at a Hanukkah celebration on Sydney's Bondi Beach, entered the country on November 1 headed for the southern province of Davao.

The island of Mindanao, where Davao is located, has a long history of Islamist insurgencies against central government rule.

Junta says Suu Kyi 'in good health' after son raises alarm

Reuters

Myanmar's junta said on Tuesday that detained former leader Aung San Suu Kyi is "in good health," a day after her son told *Reuters* he has received little information about the 80-year-old's condition and fears she could die without him knowing.

In an interview, Kim Aris said that he had not heard from his mother in years and believes she is being held in Myanmar's capital, Naypyidaw.

Ms. Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, was detained after a 2021 military coup that ousted her elected civilian government and sparked a civil war. She is serving a 27-year sentence for charges including incitement, corruption and election fraud – all of which she denies.

"Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is in good health," a statement posted on a junta-run *Myanmar Digital News* said, using an honorific for the former leader. The statement offered no evidence or details about her condition.

Aung San Suu Kyi

Mr. Aris could not be reached for comment on the junta's statement.

He said an upcoming multi-phase election in Myanmar, starting December 28, could offer an opportunity to ease his mother's plight, though many foreign governments have dismissed the polls as a sham aimed at legitimising military rule.

Mr. Aris said he hopes the military might release Ms. Suu Kyi or move her to house arrest to appease critics ahead of the vote.

The junta accused Mr. Aris of trying to disrupt the election – the first general poll since 2020, when the military accused Ms. Suu Kyi of committing fraud.

"This is merely a fabrication, timed and distributed to disrupt the free and fair multi-party democratic general election that will be held in Myanmar in the near future," the statement said.

Ms. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy, Myanmar's largest political party, remains dissolved and several other anti-junta political groups are boycotting the polls.

Director Rob Reiner's son appears in court over parents' murder

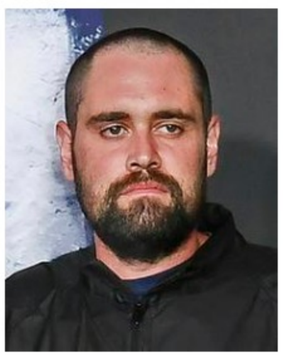
Agence France-Presse
LOS ANGELES

The son of Hollywood director Rob Reiner made his first appearance in court on Wednesday on charges that he killed both of his parents in their Los Angeles home.

In a very brief hearing thronged by media, Nick Reiner did not enter a plea on two counts of first-degree murder over a crime that has shocked the entertainment world.

The 32-year-old, who has a troubled history of addiction, is next expected to appear in court on January 7 for a formal arraignment. If convicted, he could face life in prison without parole or the death penalty.

His lawyer told reporters outside the court the case needed to be treated with "restraint and with dignity." "This is a devastating tragedy that has befallen the Reiner family," he said.



Nick Reiner

Nick Reiner was arrested on Sunday after the bodies of his 78-year-old filmmaker father and mother, photographer Michele Singer Reiner, 70, were discovered at their home in Brentwood, Los Angeles.

Prosecutors said Rob Reiner – who directed huge hits including "When Harry Met Sally" and "A Few Good Men" – and his wife were stabbed to death.

Eyeing polls, Khaleda Zia's self-exiled son plans return to Bangladesh after 17 years

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

After staying away from Bangladesh for nearly 18 years, Tarique Rahman, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) acting chairperson announced that he will return home on December 25.

Addressing his supporters at an event in London on Tuesday held to celebrate the liberation of Bangladesh in 1971, Mr. Rahman said that the upcoming election will not be "easy" and that Bangladesh will witness challenges in the months to come.

Welfare state

In his speech, Mr. Rahman said that if elected to power, his party will turn Bangladesh into a welfare state which will introduce welfare measures for families, farmers and for the unemployed youngsters.

"The next election is not an experiment. We have to remember that the coming months are an opportunity to introduce changes and we will have to use this moment honestly," Mr. Rahman said.

The demand for Mr. Rahman's return from London has been strong especially as his mother, former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, has been hospitalised for weeks because of worsening health condition.

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रूप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं. / Ph. No. 0471 – 2564568 / 5669 / 4537)

दिनांक/Dated : 17-12-2025

ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद-दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following work.

1. आरपीपी, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में नोदक और कच्ची सामग्री प्रहस्तन क्षेत्र के मुख्य सड़कों का उन्नयन (सड़क कार्य) / Upgradation of main roads in propellant and raw materials handling area at RPP, VSSC, Thumba (Road works) **NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/24/2025-26 Dt. 17.12.2025, (पी.ए.सी./P.A.C: ₹ 217.22 लाख/Lakhs)**

डाउनलोड करने की अवधि / Period for downloading : दिनांक 18.12.2025, 10.00 बजे/hrs. से/to दिनांक 25.12.2025, 23.00 बजे/hrs.

इच्छुक निविदाकार ब्यौरों के लिए www.tenderwizard.in/isro या www.isro.gov.in देखें। Interested tenderers may visit www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in for details.

Sd/- प्रधान, सीएमजी, वीएसएससी
Head, CMG, VSSC

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission
6th, 7th & 8th Floor, Tower-B, World Trade Centre,
Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi-110029

Petition No. 869/TL/2025 **Dated: 15.12.2025**

NOTICE UNDER CLAUSE (a) OF SUB-SECTION (5) OF SECTION 15 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003

An application under Sections 14 & 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (the Act) has been made by **Mandsaur I RE Transmission Limited**, B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi - 110016, to establish the "Augmentation of transformation capacity and Implementation of line bays at Mandsaur S/s for RE Interconnection" (hereinafter referred to as "the Project") on a Build, Own, Operate and Transfer Basis consisting of the following elements:

Sl. No.	Name of the Transmission Element	Scheduled COD	Element(s) which are pre-required for declaring the Commercial Operation Date (COD) of the respective element
1.	Creation of New 400kV & 765kV Bus Section-II through Sectionaliser arrangement. • 765 kV Sectionalization bay: 1- set (so that Sirohi & Khandwa (New) 765kV D/c lines, currently under tendering, are terminated on New 765kV Bus Section-II) • 400 kV Sectionalization bay: 1- set	24.03.2027	Elements at Sl. No. 1, 2, 3 & 4 are required to be commissioned simultaneously as their utilization is dependent on commissioning of each other.
2.	Augmentation of Transformation capacity by 1x1500MVA, 765/400 kV ICT (4th) (Terminated at 400 kV & 765kV Bus Section-II). • 765/400 kV, 1500 MVA ICT – 1 No. • 765kV ICT bay – 1 No. on Sec-II • 400 kV ICT bay – 1 No. on Sec-II.		
3.	Augmentation of Transformation capacity by 1x500MVA, 400/220kV ICT (6th) (Terminated on 400 kV Bus Section-I & 220kV Bus Section-II). • 1x500MVA, 400/220kV ICT – 1 No. • 400 kV ICT bay – 1 No. on Sec-I • 220kV ICT bay – 1 No. on Sec-II.		
4.	1 No. 220kV line bay (on 220kV Bus Sec-II) at Mandsaur PS for interconnection of Solar project of Waaree Renewable Technologies Ltd. (WRTL) (2200001192) (300MW). • 220kV line bay – 1 No. on Sec-II		
5.	1 No. 400 kV line bay at Mandsaur PS (on 400 kV Bus Sec-II) for interconnection of Solar project of NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd. (NTPCREL) (2200001301) (300MW) • 400 kV line bay – 1 No. on Sec-II	31.03.2027	Elements at Sl. No. 1 and 2 are pre-required for declaring the commercial operation (COD).
6.	Augmentation of Transformation capacity by 1x500MVA, 400/220kV ICT (7th) (Terminated on 400 kV Bus Section-II & 220kV Bus SectionIII) at Mandsaur PS • 1x500MVA, 400/220kV ICT – 1 No. • 400 kV ICT bay - 1 No. on Sec-II • 220kV ICT bay - 1 No. on Sec-III.	15.06.2027	Elements at Sl. No. 1, 2 & 3 are pre-required for declaring the commercial operation (COD). Further, elements at Sl. 6, 7 & 8 are required simultaneously.
7.	Creation of New 220kV Bus Section-3 with Sectionaliser arrangement at Mandsaur PS • 220 kV Sectionalization bay: 1- set • 220kV BC & TBC – 1 No.	15.06.2027	
8.	1 No. 220kV line bay at Mandsaur PS (220kV New Bus Section-3) for interconnection of wind project of JSP Green Pvt. Ltd. (JSPGPL) (2200001356) (350MW) • 220kV line bay – 1 No. on Sec-III.	15.06.2027	
9.	1 No. 220kV line bay at Mandsaur PS (220kV New Bus Section-3) for interconnection of Hybrid project of TEQ Green Power XXII Pvt. Ltd. (TGP XXII PL) (2200001431) (250MW) • 220kV line bay – 1 No. on Sec-III	30.03.2028	Elements at Sl. No. 1, 2, 3, 6 & 7 are pre-required for declaring the commercial operation (COD).

Note: *i. TSP of Mandsaur PS shall provide requisite space for above scope of work (free of cost)*

2. The Central Transmission Utility of India Limited, vide its letter dated 31.10.2025, has recommended for the grant of a transmission licence to the applicant to establish the proposed transmission system.
3. Based on the material available on the record, the Commission vide order dated 15.12.2025 in Petition No. 869/TL/2025, has proposed to issue a transmission licence to the applicant for establishment of the transmission scheme as noted in para 1 above.
4. A copy of the application, along with its annexures and enclosures, made by the applicant for the grant of an inter-State transmission licence to **Mandsaur I RE Transmission Limited**, before the Commission can be accessed at the www.powergrid.in/subsidiaries or inspected by any person in the Commission's office by following the laid down procedure.
5. Notice is hereby given in pursuance of clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act that suggestions or objections, if any, to the Commission's proposal to grant a transmission licence to the applicant, as aforesaid, be sent to the undersigned by **2.1.2026** at the above noted address. The suggestions or objections received after the specified date shall not be considered.
6. The application shall be taken up for the further hearing by the Commission on **6.1.2026**. Any person who files suggestions or objections may in his/her discretion attend the hearing, for which no TA/DA shall be paid by the Commission.

Sd/-
(Harpreet Singh Pruthi)
Secretary

PURPLE PATCH

Varun stays on top of T20I bowlers' rankings, hits new high

FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

India spinner Varun Chakaravarthy has extended his lead at the top of the ICC Men's T20I bowlers' rankings, climbing to a new career-high rating of 818. He enjoys a 119-point lead over New Zealand pacer Jacob Duffy (699). The 34-year-old has also broken into the all-time top 10 for the highest T20I bowling ratings.

OWNING UP

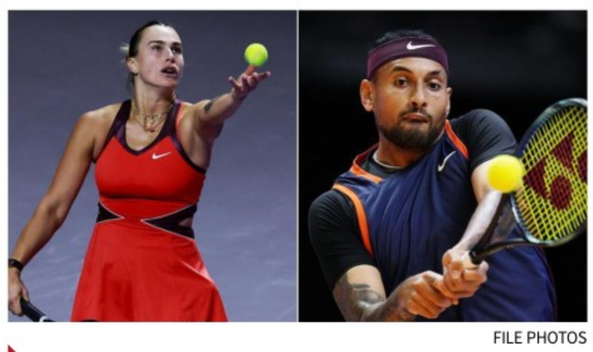
Snicko operator admits error that led to Carey's reprieve in Adelaide

REUTERS

The operator of the Snicko technology being used in The Ashes has admitted that an error led to a reprieve for Australia's Alex Carey on the first day of the third Test in Adelaide. Carey, who went on to reach his third Test century, suggested to reporters after the day's play that he believed he had hit the ball.

GUARDED OPTIMISM

I am nervous: Kyrgios on 'Battle of the Sexes' match with Sabalenka



FILE PHOTOS

Nick Kyrgios said he was looking forward to the 'Battle of the Sexes' match against Aryna Sabalenka in Dubai on Dec. 28. "My chances are really high, but I'm a bit nervous. Honestly, not many males in my position would've taken the opportunity. I've been in a lot of controversy, and this is just another thing I get to experience."

WITH THANKS

Hope football has bright future in India: Messi after 'amazing' tour

PTI

Lionel Messi hopes football has a "bright future" in India and expressed gratitude for the "generous hospitality" that he got during the three-day tour. Taking to Instagram, Messi posted a one-minute highlights clip of the tour, featuring his interactions with Indian cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar, among others.

Emotional Carey slams century, gives Australia the upper hand

After reaching his maiden Test hundred against England, the left-hander pays tribute to his father who passed away in September due to cancer; Khawaja makes the most of his return with a fighting knock; Archer fires for England

THE ASHES

Agence France-Presse
ADELAIDE

An emotional Alex Carey slammed a majestic 106 on his home ground and Usman Khawaja hit a defiant 82 on Wednesday to put Australia in the driving seat of the third Ashes Test against England.

Shock of the day

Batting after captain Pat Cummins won the toss as temperatures topped 36 Celsius at Adelaide Oval, the host was 326 for eight at stumps on day one after the shock of Steve Smith being ruled out with illness.

At close, Mitchell Starc was not out 33 and Nathan Lyon yet to score.

"To make a hundred here in front of home fans and family was special," an emotional Carey told Australian TV.

As he celebrated his maiden Ashes ton, Carey gestured towards the sky in a nod to his father Gordon, who died from cancer in September.

A tireless Jofra Archer ended with three for 29 on a tough day for England's bowlers in the field.

Australia leads the five-Test series 2-0 and will retain the Ashes if it wins or draws, after back-to-back eight-wicket victories in Perth and Brisbane.

Smith's absence gave an unexpected reprieve to Khawaja, who turns 39 on Thursday and had been overlooked as opener in favour of Travis Head and Jake Weatherald.

Khawaja, who missed Brisbane after suffering back spasms in Perth, grabbed his chance in a stoic knock.

He was eventually out just before tea, slog-sweeping to Josh Tongue in the deep off spinner Will Jacks.

Carey picked up the mantle, first alongside Josh Inglis (32), then Pat Cummins (13), and also Starc, who once more showed his prowess with the bat.

A blistering first over after lunch from Archer had left Australia reeling at 94 for four.

He removed Marnus Labuschagne for 19 with his first ball after the interval.

Two deliveries later, Cameron Green was gone, with Brydon Carse collecting catches at midwicket to dismiss both.

Inglis and Cummins fell in the final session to Tongue and Carse respectively.

Players from both teams wore black armbands as a mark of respect to the victims of the Bondi Beach mass shooting.

In full flow: Carey hit eight fours and a six while scoring his third Test century. AP

SCOREBOARD

Australia — 1st innings: Travis Head c Crawley b Carse 10, Jake Weatherald c Smith b Archer 18, Marnus Labuschagne c Carse b Archer 19, Usman Khawaja c Tongue b Jacks 82, Cameron Green c Carse b Archer 0, Alex Carey c Smith b Jacks 106, Josh Inglis b Tongue 32, Pat Cummins c Pope b Carse 13, Mitchell Starc (batting) 33, Nathan Lyon (batting) 0; Extras (lb-6, nb-7): 13; Total (for eight wkts. in 83 overs): 326.
Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-33, 3-94, 4-94, 5-185, 6-244, 7-271, 8-321.
England bowling: Archer 16-5-29-3, Carse 13-0-70-2, Tongue 15-1-63-1, Stokes 19-3-53-0, Jacks 20-3-105-2.
Toss: Australia.

Poor visibility: A thick layer of fog engulfed the Ekana Stadium on Wednesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Excessive fog rules out play in the fourth T20I

SA IN INDIA

S. Dipak Ragav
LUCKNOW

The fourth T20I between India and South Africa at the Ekana Stadium on Wednesday was abandoned due to excessive fog. This is the first time a T20I in India has been called off owing to fog.

Final game on Friday

India is ahead 2-1 in the five-match series, with the final game scheduled to be held in Ahmedabad on Friday (December 19).

K.N. Ananthapadmanabhan and Rohan Pandit, the on-field umpires, along with reserve umpire J.R. Madanagopal, had many inspections before calling off the game at 9.30 p.m. as the conditions worsened.

Initially, visibility near the long-on boundary at the pavilion end was poor, but by 8 p.m. a haze had engulfed most of the stadium.

The spectators, who had waited patiently, began throwing things onto the field before the final inspection. The security personnel restored order quickly.

Fog has often affected matches, especially the domestic ones, at this time of the year in North India.

Hazardous level

According to the AQI website, the air quality in Lucknow on Wednesday exceeded 400 and was in the hazardous level.

India all-rounder Hardik Pandya was spotted wearing a protective face mask during the pre-match routine, raising questions about allotting games to this region during winter.

In 2017, during the third Test between India and Sri Lanka in New Delhi, play was interrupted on the second day due to high pollution after a few Lankan players complained of breathing issues. Pacer Suranga Lakmal also suffered a bout of vomiting during the Test.

Gill injured

It is learnt that Shubman Gill suffered a toe injury while training on the eve of the game and would not have played on Wednesday. His participation in the final match of the series is also in doubt.

World Tennis League starts off on a cheerful note

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

A sports exhibition is a double-edged sword. There is a certain detachment that it maintains from fierce competition, which a purist may liken to trivialising.

But it also brings a sport closer to an audience, otherwise starved of watching its favourite players in flesh and blood.

The opening day of the fourth edition of the World Tennis League at the S.M. Krishna Stadium here was a mix of everything.

The quality was a couple of notches below elite level, but there was fun and frolic, keeping the sizeable crowd bubbling. There was also a sprinkling of stardust, with the most high-profile visitor being the legendary Kapil Dev.

It helped that three of the biggest showmen in tennis — Nick Kyrgios, Daniil Medvedev and Gael Monfils were in action.

Kyrgios bounced with energy, rising from his chair in the dugout at every opportunity.

At one point, chair umpire John Blom even admonished him. "Nick, please go sit," he said, and his fellow Aussie quietly walked back — quite ironically — like a well-behaved schoolkid.

Medvedev and Monfils played the last match of the evening, ensuring that fans had a rollicking finish. Once, Monfils even overruled his coach's call for a time-out, endearing himself to the supporters even more.

India's Dhakshineshwar Suresh gave a good account of himself, staying with Canadian World No. 23 Denis Shapovalov for large tracts of his tie.

The one blemish on Wednesday came right at the beginning when play had to be stopped after a section of fans protested because the abnormally high players' entry tunnel was blocking their view. Tennis resumed when they were moved behind the server's arm, a vantage position they were only too thrilled to occupy.

Stars: Medvedev, Monfils thrilled the bubbly crowd. K. MURALI KUMAR

The results: VB Realty Hawks bt Aussie Mavericks Kites 25-21 (Elina Svitolina & Maaya Rajeshwaran bt Marta Kostyuk & Ankita Raina 7-5; Svitolina bt Kostyuk 7-5; Denis Shapovalov & Yuki Bhambri lost to Nick Kyrgios & Dhakshineshwar Suresh 4-6; Shapovalov bt Dhakshineshwar 7-5).

AOS Eagles bt Game Changers Falcons 18-16 (Paula Badosa lost to Magda Linette 4-6; Sumit Nagal & Badosa bt Rohan Bopanna & Linette 6-1; Gael Monfils & Nagal lost to Daniil Medvedev & Bopanna 2-6; Monfils bt Medvedev 6-3).

IPL — where talent meets opportunity

Amol Karhadkar
ABU DHABI

Just like mutual fund investments are subject to market risks, the Indian Premier League auction valuations also have a rider: a player's selling price does not necessarily reflect his worth on the field.

With a sharp surge in uncapped domestic cricketers' earnings during Tuesday's auction, Akash Ambani, Mumbai Indians team owner, had a word of caution for the youngsters.

"Generally very, very happy for the uncapped players.

"They should remember that the auction is a place of demand and supply and not wear the price on the head... it's about when your name comes up and what slots teams are looking to fill," Akash Ambani said.

Shashwat Goenka, the Lucknow Super Giants owner, stated that the uncapped players' salary reflected the growth of the IPL.

"One of the key founding principles of the IPL was to grow domestically. I think the IPL has come a long way in furthering that cause," he said.

It also means that the franchises will have to be extra-vigilant to ensure that price-tag pressure does not affect young Indians.

"Whenever you get a strong core of local players, the team is in good shape. Sometimes you have to invest time in that and also money because scouting on numerous tournaments around India is becoming very important," Chennai Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming said.

Vital aspect: Fleming, right, feels a team will be in good shape if it has a strong core of local players. IPL

GCL: Humpy, Harika power Mumba Masters to big win

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MUMBAI

They have kept the flag of Indian women's chess flying high for years. Koneru Humpy and D. Harika are now well into their 30s and have families to look after, too.

The two Telugu-speaking women on Wednesday delivered when their team needed at the Royal Opera House. The wins by Humpy and Harika were instrumental in upGrad Mumba Masters' 18-2 win against PBG Alaskan Knights, for which the nightmare continues, as it still is looking for a victory.

The comprehensive victory has put Mumba Masters on top of the table with 51 game points, eight ahead of the defending champion Triveni Continental Kings. Ganges Grandmasters lies third with 35 points.

Humpy defeated Kateryna Lagno, while D. Harika beat Sarasadat Khademalsharieh to ensure that Mumba got the maximum points from their two Superstar Women boards.

Wesley So and Baridya Daneshvar also won their games too, against Arjun Erigaisi and Daniel Dardha, though on the top board Maxime Vachier-Lagrave was held to a draw by D. Gukesh.

On song: Humpy humbled Lagno to star in Mumba Masters's win. GCL

Like Mumbai, Continental Kings too has been playing in a solid manner and both have won three out of their four matches. In the day's last match, the reigning champion defeated Ganges Grandmasters 11-6.

The Continental Kings were once again led from the front by Alireza Firouzja, who defeated Viswanathan Anand on the Icon board.

On the second board, in a match between two men who have been in good form of late, Wei Yi prevailed over Vincent Keymer. There was also a significant win for Alexandra Kosteniuk, over Stavroula Tsolakidou.

The results (fourth round): Alpine SG Pipers bt Fyers American Gambits 10-4
(Fabiano Caruana drew with Hikaru Nakamura; Anish Giri drew with Vladislav Artemiev; R. Praggnanandhaa drew with Richard Rapport; Hou Yifan drew with Bibisara Assaubayeva; Nino Batsiashvili bt Teodora Injac; Leon Mendonca bt Volodar Murzin).

PBG Alaskan Knights lost to upGrad Mumba Masters 2-18
(D. Gukesh drew with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave; Arjun Erigaisi lost to Wesley So; Leinier Dominguez drew with Shakhriyar Mamedyarov; Kateryna Lagno lost to Koneru Humpy; Sarasadat Khademalsharieh lost to D. Harika; Daniel Dardha lost to Baridya Daneshvar).

Triveni Continental Kings bt Ganges Grandmasters 11-6
(Alireza Firouzja bt Viswanathan Anand; Wei Yi bt Vincent Keymer; Vidit Gujrathi lost to Javokhir Sindarov; Zhu Jiner drew with Polina Shuvalova; Alexandra Kosteniuk bt Stavroula Tsolakidou); MarcAndria Maurizzi drew with Raunak Sadhwani.

(The writer is in Mumbai at the invitation of Tech Mahindra).

A BG-BGE

INBRIEF

Tendulkar meets champion Indian blind women's team

Sachin Tendulkar met the T20 World Cup-winning Indian blind women's cricket team in Mumbai on Tuesday. "He reminded the team that success brings with it greater responsibility. He said expectations would rise, and meeting them would demand even harder work and sharper focus," organisers said in a statement. T.C. Deepika, the captain of the team, said: "We have always played with passion and belief, but hearing words of encouragement from him has touched our hearts deeply."

Anantjeet, Darshna clinch mixed team skeet gold

Rajasthan's Anantjeet Singh Naruka and Darshna Rathore won the senior skeet mixed team gold at the 68th National shooting (shotgun) in New Delhi on Wednesday, defeating Uttar Pradesh's Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Areeba Khan 45-43 in the gold medal match. In junior skeet mixed team, Telangana's Yuvek Battula and L. Venkat Lakshmi contributed 19 hits each to secure title.

Satwik-Chirag open BWF World Tour Finals with win

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty showed nerves of steel to eke out a thrilling 12-21, 22-20, 21-14 victory over Olympic silver medallists Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang of China in their opening men's doubles Group B match at the BWF World Tour Finals badminton in Hangzhou on Wednesday.

Sridhar appointed Sri Lanka's fielding coach till March '26

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) on Wednesday appointed former India fielding coach R. Sridhar in a similar role with its national side until the end of the T20 World Cup, in February-March next year.

Manikanth and Dhruv shine for Karnataka

Manikanth Shivanand (71, 10x4) and Dhruv Krishnan (59, 6x4, 1x6) took Karnataka to 252 for five in 78 overs at close on the second day in reply to Maharashtra's first innings score of 304 in the Cooch Behar (under-19) Trophy Elite match at the S.D.N.R.W. grounds in Mysuru on Wednesday.

The scores: Maharashtra 304 in 94.2 overs (Sahil Parakh 30, Samit Surana 31, Sai Paradeshi 48, Arqam Syed 68, Aneesh Joshi 58, Vaibhav Sharma 5/77) vs Karnataka 252/5 in 78 overs (Manikanth Shivanand 71, Dhruv Krishnan 59, Anvay Dravid 38, Varun Patel 34 n.o).

Alcaraz splits with coach Ferrero after seven years

Men's tennis World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz announced on Wednesday on social media that he is splitting from his coach Juan Carlos Ferrero after seven hugely successful years. "It is very difficult to write this post... After more than seven years together, 'Juanki' and I have decided to end our story together as coach and player." Alcaraz said in a post. "Thank you for making the dreams of a child become reality."

SNAPSHOTS

Gaurav and Tanishka triumph

BENGALURU: B.R. Gaurav and Tanishka Kapil Kalbhairav emerged as the boys' and girls' under-19 champions in the C.V.L. Shastry Memorial Karnataka State table tennis championship held at Canara Union here.

The results: Finals: Boys: B.R. Gaurav bt Varun Kashyap 2-11, 7-11, 11-4, 11-8, 11-7, 11-9. **Girls:** Tanishka Kapil Kalbhairav bt Himanshi Chowdhary 11-7, 11-6, 4-11, 11-8, 11-7.

Revive FC posts win

Revive FC defeated Young Blues Elite FC 3-1 in the BDFA 'B' division football league here.

Other results: FC Mangalore bt Shooterz FC 3-2; KSP FC bt William FC 2-1.

A maiden title beckons finalists Haryana and Jharkhand

The captains, Ankit and Kishan, have led from the front with consistent batting; dew will be a major factor, making the toss all the more crucial

The grand prize: Kishan and Ankit with the trophy. SHAYAN ACHARYA

SMAT

Shayan Acharya
PUNE

After three weeks of high-octane cricketing action, two young teams – Haryana and Jharkhand – will chase their maiden Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy title when they feature in the final at the MCA Stadium here on Thursday. Both captains, Ishan Kishan and Ankit Kumar, have led from the front with consistent batting performances. However, the two teams have had different journeys in the tournament.

Jharkhand remained undefeated in nine games through the group phase and the Super League stage but went down to Andhra on Tuesday. For Haryana, every game has been like a knockout, according to its captain Ankit. Placed in Group A with defending champion Mumbai, Rajasthan and Hyderabad, Haryana overcame a defeat in its Super League match against Mumbai. It put up a dominant performance in the final game against Hyderabad to improve its net run rate and storm into the final.

> There is obviously a bit of pressure, but you have to keep yourself calm, and keep the nerves in control
> – ISHAN KISHAN

Ankit has had a dream run, amassing 448 runs in 10 innings, and has been vital in Haryana's strategy of attacking in the Powerplay.

Dew will be a major factor in the final, making the toss all the more crucial. Keeping that in mind, Haryana would expect its fast bowlers Anshul Kamboj and Ishant Bhardwaj to take charge. A neat start with the ball could allow Haryana to unleash off-spinner Amit Rana.

As Jharkhand captain Kishan pointed out, his side would stick to its tried and tested formula. With Virat Singh back among runs, after a few forgettable outings, the team would hope to make the most of the Powerplay. On a flat deck, Jharkhand will pin its hopes on Vikash Singh and Sushant Mishra to keep things under control and clinch the title.

Match starts at 4.30 p.m.

Mohun Bagan banned from AFC competitions for two seasons, heavy fine imposed

Neeladri Bhattacharjee
CHENNAI

The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), on Wednesday, imposed a two-season ban (up to the 2027-28 season) and a ₹3.6 crore ($400,729) fine on the Indian Super League (ISL) champion Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) for refusing to travel for the game against Sepahan SC.

Bagan didn't travel to Iran for its AFC Champions League Two (ACL 2) group-stage match on September 30, citing the unavailability of visas for some of its foreign players.

It was the second such withdrawal in a row after it had refused to travel to Iran for its group stage match against Tractor Sports Club in ACL 2 last season.

Bagan was let off then, considering it a *force majeure*.

However, the refusal to travel to Iran in the 2025-26 season did not go down well with the AFC.

Rahul, Prasidh Krishna in squad as Karnataka begins its title defence

HAZARE TROPHY

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

India internationals K.L. Rahul and Prasidh Krishna have been named in the Karnataka squad for the upcoming Vijay Hazare Trophy. Karnataka, the defending champion, will play its Group 'A' matches at Ahmedabad commencing on December 24.

Karnataka senior men's selection panel chairman Amit Verma clarified that while pacers Vidwath Kaverappa and Vidyadhar Patel were not in the squad list, the duo will travel to Ahmedabad with the team and will be available for match duty.

Influential: Karnataka will be boosted by the inclusion of India internationals Prasidh Krishna and Rahul. PTI

Rahul had captained the Indian team in the recent South Africa ODI leg.

Karun Nair, who performed admirably in the Ranji Trophy, has been named the vice-captain.

Harshil Dharmani and Dhruv Prabhakar earned spots on the back of good performances in the U-23 State 'A' Trophy last month. Dharmani made a match-winning 142 against Tamil Nadu in the tournament, while Prabhakar scored a valiant 126 against Vidarbha. Amit, the newly appointed chairman, stated that Prabhakar adds value as a spinner.

Left-arm spinner Shreesha Achar features as the lone specialist slow bowler in the squad.

The squad: Mayank Agarwal (captain), Karun Nair (vice-captain), Devdutt Padikkal, R. Smaran, K.L. Shrijith, Abhinav Manohar, Shreyas Gopal, V. Vyshak, Manvanth Kumar, Shreesha Achar, Abhilash Shetty, B.R. Sharath, Harshil Dharmani, Dhruv Prabhakar, K.L. Rahul, Prasidh Krishna. **Coach:** Yere Goud. **Bowling coach:** Mansur Ali Khan. **Fielding coach:** Shabarish Mohan.

Gukesh and Anand to play at Tata Steel chess in Kolkata next month

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MUMBAI

World champion D. Gukesh will be the biggest attraction at the Tata Steel Chess India tournament next month in Kolkata.

Though it is going to be Gukesh's second event in India after winning the World championship in Singapore last year, it is actually the first individual event for the 19-year-old, who is now playing the Global Chess League for PBG Alaskan Knights.

The rapid and blitz event will also see this year the return of five-time World champion Viswanathan Anand as a player, after being the ambassador over the last few years.

"I am really very excited to be back at Tata Steel Chess India as a player after a gap of six years," said Anand. "Within this period, the world of chess has changed massively with the emergence of talented players across the country, especially in India. I am really excited to accept the challenge from the youngsters in this marquee tournament of India."

R. Pragganandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi, Vidit Gujrathi and Aravindh Chithambaram are the other Indians in the men's event. Wesley So, Wei Yi, Volodar Murzin and Hans Niemann, complete the line-up. Divya Deshmukh will be in focus at the women's event. R. Vaishali, D. Harika, Vantika Agrawal, and Rakshitta Ravi are also part of the Indian contingent. Aleksandra Goryachkina, Kateryna Lagno, Nana Dzagnidze, Carissa Yip and Stavroula Tsolakido are the other women in the tournament that will be held from January 7 to 11.

LIVE TELECAST

SMAT: Final, JioHotstar, 4.30 p.m.

Conference League: Sony Sports Ten 2, 3, 5 & LIV, 1.30 a.m. (Friday)

New Zealand vs West Indies: 3rd Test, day 2, Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 3.30 a.m. (Friday)

The Ashes: 3rd Test, day 3, Star Sports Ten 1 & JioHotstar, 5 a.m. (Friday)

Preparing the juniors to take up bigger challenges, says Sreejesh

HOCKEY

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

India junior men's hockey team coach P.R. Sreejesh on Tuesday said that winning the Junior World Cup bronze medal has instilled a renewed sense of belief among the young players.

"Their confidence level is really high right now. They feel like they can achieve much more in their career and life," he said on the sidelines of the second edition of the Tamil Nadu Sports Conclave (TASCON 2.0) here.

Sreejesh. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

On how he sees the team's evolution since taking over as coach, the 37-year-old said: "Their way of approaching the game has changed. You need a lot of mental preparation to approach a game. And that's what we senior players always do - we share our experience, telling them how to prepare for a match. They have evolved a lot individually as well."

Outlining his role in readying the youngsters for the demands of senior international hockey, Sreejesh said: "My duty is to tell them what they need to expect in the future. It's not going to be easier like this with the senior team. There will be tougher challenges. The European teams and Australia are far superior. So, I prepare them to take up big challenges. This (Junior World Cup bronze) is the benchmark for them. This is the basic starting line for them. From here, they need to live up their life."

He picked goalkeeper Prince Deep Singh, captain and defender Rohit, midfielders Ankit Pal, Manmeet Singh, and Rosan Kujur, and forward Arshdeep Singh as players who are already capable of breaking into the senior core group.

Dembele, Bonmati scoop FIFA Best awards

FOOTBALL

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

France and Paris Saint-Germain attacker Ousmane Dembele won the men's FIFA Best award at a ceremony in Qatar on Tuesday, while Barcelona midfield maestro Aitana Bonmati collected the women's prize.

PSG's Spanish coach Luis Enrique was named best coach of a men's team.

In the goalkeeping category, Italy's Gianluigi Donnarumma picked up the men's award.

The awardees:

Player: Women: Aitana Bonmati; **men:** Ousmane Dembele.

Goalkeeper: Women: Hannah Hampton; **men:** Gianluigi Donnarumma.

Coach: Women: Sarina Wiegman; **men:** Luis Enrique

Best goal: Women (Marta award): Lizbeth Ovalle; **men (Puskas award):** Santiago Montiel.

Fan award: Fans of Zakho SC

Fair Play: Dr Harlass-Neuking.

Dembele. FIFA

Bonmati. AFP

May the best country win Olympic bid: Jassim

Rajdeep Saha
DOHA

Every country has the right to bid and host the Olympics, Jassim Abdulaziz Al Jassim, Chief Executive Officer, Local Organising Committee for Football Events in Qatar, told reporters on Wednesday, reaffirming the country's wish to host the 2036 Games.

India, where the 2030 CWG will be held, has also expressed interest in hosting the Games. "The Olympics is very big. Qatar wants to host it, and we will bid for sure. India also has a great bidding plan. I'm not really involved in the bidding process for 2036, but I know we have the infrastructure and the know-how. India also has a lot of good aspects and a lot of positive things that will help it. May the best country win," Jassim said.

(The writer is in Doha on an invitation from the Qatar Local Organising Committee for 2025 FIFA events).